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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
29 June 2009—9 July 2009

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29 June 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 29 June 2009

TREASURY

Tax Administration/Anti-Avoidance

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has today published a consultation document on the implementation of a code of practice on taxation for banks.

The Government are committed to developing and safeguarding a UK tax system whereby everyone pays their fair share. Tax avoidance compromises the effectiveness of the tax system and unfairly results in a greater tax burden being borne by compliant taxpayers. This undermines public confidence and imposes significant costs on society.

The Government have consistently tackled avoidance since 1997—making reforms to the tax system, introducing the disclosure regime and closing legislative loopholes. We vigorously challenge tax avoidance, through the courts if necessary. The UK also plays a leading role in international efforts to counter avoidance through sharing of information and intelligence.

Tax avoidance schemes continue to be developed and marketed and it is right that the Government act to close them. No country has found an agreed or enforceable definition of avoidance—much avoidance reduces tax in ways that go beyond the spirit, but not the letter, of the law.

We seek to ensure that anti-avoidance rules are properly targeted so that they only affect those aiming to avoid tax, and where appropriate to consult with businesses on the detail of the legislation. Business has welcomed this approach and it has led to better legislation. We continue to develop our strategy and practice for tackling tax avoidance and we are today publishing a code of practice for banks which builds on the key themes of good governance and transparency with HMRC that have been key components of the Government's approach to the administration of company tax.

Banks play a vital role in the UK. They are important contributors of tax, and alongside firms in other sectors, banks will want to arrange their tax affairs efficiently. But it is clear that some banks have been involved in tax avoidance that goes well beyond reasonable tax planning. Given their access to capital and financial markets as well as their range of contacts, banks are uniquely placed to enter into transactions designed to avoid tax, offer transactions of this sort to their customers, or simply to provide the very large amounts of funding and other financial instruments these transactions can require. The code seeks to change behaviours and attitudes towards tax avoidance in the banking sector

We, and the public, rightly expect banks, and financial services firms more generally, to show a high degree of responsibility, the highest standards of corporate governance and to have an open, transparent and professional relationship with HMRC. When the Government have provided significant support to strengthen the financial system, it is right that measures are taken to introduce a higher level of public transparency. This will not happen overnight and we need to work with the banks and other stakeholders to achieve it.

This consultation is a starting point in changing the behaviour of banks in relation to tax avoidance. Over the coming months we will be speaking to banks to develop a shared understanding of where banks should draw the line, where we want them to raise and resolve issues with HMRC and to ascertain the appropriate level of accountability for behaviours at a senior level that they can achieve; and what they can expect from HMRC in return.

The consultation document can be found on HMRC's website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk. A copy has also been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Right to Manage Companies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): I have today published a consultation paper that proposes new prescribed articles for Right to Manage (RTM) Companies.

The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 introduced a right for long leaseholders to take over the management of the premises containing their flats without proving any fault on the part of their landlord. Prescribed memorandum and articles of association were provided to govern the operation of these companies. These reflected current company law requirements.

With the changes that are being made by the Companies Act 2006 there is now a need for these prescribed documents to be updated for RTM companies that are incorporated on or after 1 October 2009. This is to ensure consistency between the requirements of these RTM companies and other companies.

The consultation seeks views on the proposed updated company articles and will run for seven weeks until 16 August 2009. The Government would welcome responses to their proposals up until that date.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and I have been made aware that the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (the Help Scheme) has sent out a number of inaccurate letters regarding eligibility for help under the scheme. This was as a result of incorrect or incomplete information provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The Help Scheme is run by the BBC under an agreement with the Government. It offers older and disabled people help to switch one TV to digital during switchover in their region. People are eligible if they:

are aged 75 or over; or

have lived in a care home for six months or more; or

get or could get disability living allowance, mobility supplement, attendance allowance or constant attendance allowance; or

are registered blind or partially sighted.

There are two categories of letters involved: letters sent to people who were not eligible; and letters sent to people informing them that they would have to pay a £40 charge when they were, in fact, entitled to the help for free. The DWP apologises for these mistakes and has informed the Information Commissioners Office. DCMS, DWP and the Help Scheme are working closely to ensure that these errors do not occur again.

Letters sent to people who are ineligible

The first set of letters has offered help to people who are not eligible for the Help Scheme.

Approximately 65,000 people were incorrectly sent a letter telling them that they were eligible for help. Almost all live in the Llandudno postcode area; some are in the Llandrindod Wells area and there may be small numbers in Liverpool, Chester, Newport and Lancaster. The Help Scheme and DWP will today write to around 55,000 ineligible people who have not already applied for help or responded to the original letter. This letter apologises for the error and for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

If someone who received the original letter has already applied for help, they will get help exactly as if they had been eligible in the first place. We believe that this will be fewer than 2,000 people.

The Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007 allows the DWP to disclose some limited information to the BBC or Eaga, the contractor appointed by the BBC to run the scheme. Such information, however, should only relate to people who are eligible for the Help Scheme.

Letters stating that help was available for £40 instead of for free

It costs £40 to participate in the scheme except where eligible people are also entitled to certain income-related benefits. Unfortunately a second batch of letters has been sent to people stating that they would have to pay £40 to participate in the scheme when they should have been informed that it was available to them for free. These are recipients of the income-related component of the new Employment and Support Allowance which was introduced in October 2008. These people should have been entitled to free help from the scheme and the DWP are urgently working to establish the numbers and names. We believe the numbers affected to be small.

Once the people affected have been identified by DWP, letters will be sent to them apologising for this error and making it clear that they can have assistance under the scheme for free. Anyone who has already participated in the scheme will have their £40 reimbursed as soon as possible.

The DWP has now made the necessary changes to the way in which it identifies people eligible for free help and is confident that this error will not happen again.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate was laid before Parliament on 26 June.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Government's Draft Legislative Programme (2009-10)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am pleased to announce that the Government are today publishing their Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10, as a part of the Government's proposals for "Building Britain's Future".

This is the third year that the Government have published their legislative programme in draft for consultation in advance of the Queen's Speech. This year it is being published as part of the Government's broader plan for "Building Britain's Future". This provides an opportunity for both the public and Parliament to see how the Draft Legislative Programme forms part of the action the Government are taking to build a more prosperous, stronger and fairer country.

The aim of publishing the Draft Legislative Programme is to be transparent about what the Government are planning to achieve through legislation. This provides an opportunity to look across the programme as a whole and take a view as to whether the balance of priorities is right, whether there are important areas that have been missed out or areas of the programme that should be given lower priority. This, in turn, enables views to be fed into the development of the programme before the final programme is announced in the Queen's Speech towards the end of the year.

As a draft programme, the Government expect it to develop and change over the course of the year, as a result both of consultation and as new issues arise. For example, on 10 June the Prime Minister announced the start of public engagement on further democratic reform, some parts of which could require primary legislation—this exercise will be running in parallel with consultation on the Draft Legislative Programme.

The Government are currently proposing to introduce 11 Bills in key areas in the next session of Parliament (two of which, the Equality and Child Poverty Bills, have recently been introduced but will be largely considered in the next session and one, the Constitutional Renewal Bill, is intended for introduction before the end of this session). The Government have also recently introduced the Parliamentary Standards Bill, intended for Royal Assent before the summer recess, to create an Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to revise, monitor and administer the system of MPs' allowances; to set and enforce the rules relating to the registration of MPs' financial interests; to create new criminal offences for MPs of making false or misleading claims for allowances, failing to register a financial interest and engaging in paid advocacy and to provide for the code of conduct for Members to be placed on a statutory footing.

These Bills are:

Constitutional Renewal Bill
Bribery Bill
Financial Services And Business Bill
Digital Economy Bill
Energy Bill
Flood and Water Management Bill
Improving Schools and Safeguarding Children Bill
Equality Bill
Policing, Crime and Private Security Bill
Child Poverty Bill
Cluster Munitions Prohibition Bill

The Government have already made significant reforms to the House of Lords and will bring forward further reform through the Constitutional Renewal Bill. To complete this final phase of reform, the Government will then set out proposals and publish a draft Bill for a smaller and democratically constituted second chamber.

The Government are keen to receive the public's views on the Draft Legislative Programme, in particular whether people think the Draft Legislative Programme reflects the right priorities for the United Kingdom and, if not, what other issues do you think the Government should be addressing?

Further information about the programme and how people can comment is available on the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons website (www.commonsleader.gov.uk). The consultation will close on 21 September 2009.

GOVERNMENT EQUALITIES

Equality Bill (Age Discrimination)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Michael Jabez Foster): The Equality Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will outlaw unjustifiable age discrimination against adults aged 18 or over in the provision of services and the exercise of public functions. It also includes powers to make exceptions from the ban.

We often treat people differently according to their age and this is often appropriate because people's needs, expectations and circumstances change with their age. Age-based treatment can play an important role in ensuring that people of all ages can participate socially and economically in their community and that services meet people's differing needs and are delivered efficiently, benefiting individuals and society in general. Different treatment because of age will continue to be allowed when it can be objectively justified or where there are exceptions to the ban on age discrimination.

The powers will be used to put in place a number of specific exceptions, to allow age-based treatment to continue. This will provide a greater degree of legal certainty for service providers to ensure that they do not end beneficial practices or withdraw services out of concern that they may be open to legal challenge. It will also ensure the process of having to justify age-based treatment does not undermine service providers' ability to continue to provide the service or function on an economic basis or at all.

The consultation issued today—"Equality Bill: Making it work—Ending age discrimination in services and public functions—A consultation" outlines how we are developing our proposals for particular services where we think additional legal certainty is important to encourage beneficial practices and services to continue. It asks specific questions to help shape the exceptions from the ban and obtain further information. The consultation runs until 30 September 2009.

We are placing copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 30 June 2009

TREASURY

UK and IMF 2007 and 2008

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I am today publishing the ninth report to Parliament on UK operations at the IMF "The UK and the IMF 2007 and 2009"—Responding to global economic challenges". Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I intend to publish a consultation document before the summer recess on reform of council housing finance. My intention is to dismantle the housing revenue account subsidy system and replace it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding. However, I can confirm to the House today the principles on which this will be based.

I want to provide more flexibility in finances and more transparency in the operation of the system. I want to devolve control from central to local government. And, in return, I want to increase local responsibility and accountability for long-term planning, asset management, and for meeting the housing needs of local people. The current system makes this difficult to achieve.

On 12 December 2007, my predecessor as Housing Minister announced to the House a review of council housing finance to be led jointly by my Department and the Treasury. Its purpose was to identify options for a sustainable, long-term system for financing council housing that would be fair to both tenants and taxpayers.

The review has been conducted with a wide range of interested and expert organisations through meetings and workshops, calls for evidence, focus groups and questionnaires. Research and analysis were commissioned internally and from external experts.

There is a clear rationale for the current redistributive housing revenue account subsidy system. Councils have different spending needs and different capacities to raise income. Without redistribution, some councils would have to charge higher rents or deliver lower quality services. By redistributing money, all councils should be able to deliver a similar level of service while charging a similar level of rent.

However, there are significant drawbacks in a national system for financing council housing and in the relationship it creates between central and local government.

Our consultation following this review will propose a devolved self-financing alternative to the current system. This would remove the need to redistribute revenue nationally, while continuing to ensure that all councils had sufficient resources. With these reforms, councils would finance their own businesses from their own rents, in exchange for a one-off redistribution of housing debt. By freeing councils from the annual funding decisions in the current system, this will enable councils to plan long-term and to improve the management of their homes, secure greater efficiencies and improve the quality of service to their tenants.

This would provide councils with a financial framework in which they could plan and manage for the long-term in the same way we expect of other social housing providers. It would give councils a greater capacity and more freedom to respond to local needs and, in doing so, increase their responsibility and accountability to local tenants and residents.

Change on this scale is complex and will require primary legislation. The consultation will set out how moving to a self-financing system will require an adjustment of debt levels for most authorities. At present around £17 billion of housing debt with annual servicing costs of around £1.1 billion is spread across the 202 councils in the system. The self-financing model would enable each council to manage directly and fund their own debt.

In addition to revenue redistribution, councils are currently required to pay Government different proportions of the receipts from right to buy sales and sales of other HRA assets. There is a strong case for allowing councils to retain all of their capital receipts which could give councils the ability to develop a comprehensive strategy to maintain, improve and develop their housing. The consultation document will therefore set out proposals to end the pooling of all housing capital receipts.

I want to see councils building and commissioning more of the new homes that people need in their area. We are therefore taking immediate steps to support this role for local authorities, based on the same principles I am setting out for our long-term reforms.

For the first time, councils can now access the same capital subsidy through the social housing grant that is provided to housing associations for new affordable homes. Decisions on the first council schemes to be funded in this way will be confirmed in September.

At the Budget, we announced £100 million to fund some 900 new council homes. Yesterday, in his Housing Pledge, the Prime Minister announced a further £1.5 billion to build an extra 20,000 affordable and energy efficient homes, increasing the scale of the programme for the next two years to a £2.1 billion investment for 110,000 new affordable homes. This includes a four-fold increase in our plans for new council homes. Together, these changes will enable councils to become once again significant providers of new housing, with further flexibility to do more, where councils can act rapidly and offer good value for money.

We want to maximise our efforts behind building of new affordable homes. So I can also confirm that we are closing the open market homebuy scheme to new applicants and in future our low cost home ownership programme will be directed to schemes which support new build homes.

Tenants and council tax payers expect to see their services delivered with the very best value for money. I want to ensure that our reforms to the council housing finance system have strong incentives for improving efficiency, which will benefit councils and their tenants.

We remain committed to completing our comprehensive decent homes programme and to maintaining this standard. The reforms I propose will safeguard this commitment. Capital funding will be provided to support this. We also intend to complete improvements required to common areas of estates and will ensure that there is sufficient funding in the system to maintain them in the future.

Our aim in setting up the self-financing system is to ensure that it delivers the investment needed to sustain and maintain the existing stock of council homes.

In the future within this self-financing system, local authorities may also wish to borrow to fund investment. Government are currently considering whether and how any local flexibilities for new investment could be reconciled with the need to ensure that the overall fiscal position for Government is not undermined.

The benefits delivered by arm's length management organisations that manage council housing services should not be affected by a change in the system for financing council housing. We see a strong future role for ALMOs which are valued by their tenants. We would expect ALMOs to continue to develop their housing management capacity and to look for opportunities to extend the range of services they offer, including to other landlords, where this would improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Transferring to a housing association should also remain an option that council tenants can choose. There are potential benefits from bringing in a not-for-profit body with access to private finance to own and manage the homes. However, there should be equity in the terms of public funding whether they are transferred or retained in the future under self-financing. The value placed on the stock in a self-financing agreement and a transfer deal will be based on delivering the same standards of service at a comparable cost.

We will continue to work with councils whose tenants have voted for transfer and councils who are currently developing transfer proposals to bring these to completion. Future transfer proposals will not gain any financial support beyond what would be provided under self-financing.

A number of councils have been developing proposals to establish Local Housing Companies (LHCs) that combine public land and private finance to deliver new mixed tenure housing. Current market conditions create difficulties in taking the next steps, and the consultation document will confirm how we will assist the establishment of viable LHCs as quickly as possible. In future, self-financing will provide another option for councils who want to put their land and income into schemes to deliver new housing.

Responses to the review showed strong support for a more devolved approach to financing council housing.

A fully self-financing locally devolved system cannot be implemented in a single step but I want to move as rapidly as possible to put these reforms in place and the consultation document will set out my proposed timetable.

However, there are steps we can take without delay. So I am announcing that from today we will exclude all new build council housing from the HRA subsidy system which means that councils will retain in full the rent and capital receipts from these homes.

I will work with all those with an interest in improving the system to make sure that these plans for reform are robust and deliverable.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate (Restructuring)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

> My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions with responsibility for health and safety, Lord Mckenzie, and I are today launching a consultation on our proposed restructuring of the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate.
>
> The proposed restructuring is designed to reinvigorate the organisational arrangements of nuclear regulation to take account of current and future challenges in the nuclear environment. The restructuring will consolidate regulatory functions currently carried out by separate parts of Government into a new, sector specific regulatory body that will have greater autonomy than at present but remain within the auspices of HSE. The Government propose to effect the restructuring through a Legislative Reform Order.
>
> The regulator would be named in legislation as responsible for its regulatory functions, which at the moment lie either with the Secretary of State or the HSE. The new body will be governed by an independent board comprising of predominantly non-executive members. For the first time the position of chief inspector would become a statutory office, preserving the independence of regulatory decision making. The Government believe that these measures will enhance the transparency and accountability of nuclear regulation overall.
>
> These proposals for reform seek to build on the existing regulatory strengths, while creating a modern organisation that is empowered to meet the challenges of the changing nuclear environment; creating a regulator that is widely acclaimed for its excellence in this new environment, and can maintain its world-class reputation into the future.
>
> The consultation will close on 22 September 2009 and will be followed by a Government response.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dairy Farmers of Britain

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to update the House on recent developments related to Dairy Farmers of Britain.

I informed the House in my written statement of 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS, that on 3 June PricewaterhouseCoopers had been appointed as receivers and managers of Dairy Farmers of Britain Ltd (DFoB). In the debate on Food, Farming and the

Environment on 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 480, I reported that new buyers had been found for 96 per cent. of the milk, leaving fewer than 200 of the 1,800 farmers affected yet to find an alternative milk buyer. A further 47 farmers secured new buyers before the end of last week.

Throughout this time DEFRA officials and the Regional Development Agencies have worked closely with the receiver, the DFoB Members Council and with many other parties whether those affected or those offering support. All parties have worked to find new buyers for all the remaining farmers as quickly as possible.

On 26 June the receiver and Milk Link announced that all 143 farmers who were on short-term rolling contracts with the receiver at that time were being offered a contract with Milk Link. This would be for a three-month rolling contract paying a standard litre price of 18.45 pence per litre. Some farmers started to sign up to these contracts over the weekend.

I welcome this initiative by Milk Link which, by making use of economies of scale and Milk Link's existing infrastructure, has enabled them to offer these farmers significantly more than the 10p per litre being offered by the receiver, although whether that price is commercially viable for individual farmers is a matter for them to determine. DEFRA will continue to work with other parties to ensure affected farmers know how to access advice, including advice funded by the Rural Development Agencies through the Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) where appropriate.

I would like again to pay tribute to the hard work of the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to ensuring that no milk has been thrown away since the collapse of DFoB and that all farmer members of DFoB have now been offered a contract with a new milk buyer.

I will update the House as necessary.

Marine and Fisheries Agency (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Marine and Fisheries Agency will be laid before Parliament today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am pleased to announce today the next steps in the implementation of the National Identity Service. This started with the introduction of identity cards for foreign nationals in November 2008 and will continue later this year with the introduction of the first identity cards for British citizens including the roll out of voluntary identity cards at a fee of £30 to people living in the Greater Manchester area.

There will be significant benefits to individuals from holding an identity card which will become the most convenient, secure and affordable way of asserting identity in everyday life. Identity cards will also be valid for travel throughout Europe in place of a British passport.

I have reviewed the plans for introducing identity cards to the wider public and have decided to accelerate the roll out of cards by extending the initial coverage from Greater Manchester to other locations in the North-West early next year. Anyone resident first in Greater Manchester and then in the wider areas to be specified will be entitled to apply for an identity card. Initially this will be through Identity and Passport Service Offices based in central Manchester and at Manchester airport.

Precise arrangements for the extension of the roll-out are being developed, but will include the extension of identity card enrolment to other Identity and Passport Service offices in North-West England. There will be a particular focus on issuing identity cards at a fee of £30 to those who will most benefit, particularly young people.

The Government are committed to providing real help now to people in these difficult economic times. Those over 75 are particularly affected and as a consequence the Government will also be looking at options which could allow pensioners aged 75 and over [illegible]ceive an identity card free of charge. These identity cards will assist in asserting identity and will enable travel throughout Europe.

The Government already have arrangements in hand for the production of identity cards. Later this year, and subject to the normal procurement processes, a further contract will be signed to cover production of cards for the medium term. We are currently engaged in negotiations to ensure the best value for money. We now have a much clearer view of our costs in the future as we have entered into 10-year contracts to upgrade the Identity and Passport Service's application and enrolment system and build and run the database that will support passports and identity cards.

At the same time, we will continue to look at ways of reducing costs across both passport and identity card work. A further "Cost Report" on the estimated costs of the identity cards scheme over the next 10 years will be made to Parliament in the autumn. However, the expectation is that the costs specifically relating to identity cards will be less than the 30 per cent. of the total costs of the National Identity Scheme previously estimated.

However, holding an identity card should be a personal choice for British citizens—just as it is now to obtain a passport. Accordingly, I want the introduction of identity cards for all British citizens to be voluntary and I have therefore decided that identity cards issued to airside workers, planned initially at Manchester and London City airports later this year, should also be voluntary. I continue to believe that identity cards will help deliver enhanced security in the airside pass-issuing process at airports by making it easier and more certain to verify an individual's identity. In consultation with the airport operators, we will be encouraging anyone applying for an airside pass to obtain an identity card. There will be significant benefits from a large proportion of airside pass holders having their identity verified and being issued with identity cards. We have listened to what the unions, airlines and others in the aviation sector have had to say about our plans and as a result we will now seek to achieve these results by inviting applications to be made on a voluntary basis.

The Government will, therefore, be withdrawing the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Designation) Order 2009 which was laid before Parliament on 6 May 2009. This would have made it a requirement for anyone applying for a criminal conviction certificate, as part of the process for obtaining an airside pass to access the restricted area at a specified airport, also to obtain an identity card.

The Government believe that effective identity assurance is the foundation stone of a good personnel security regime in airports and elsewhere and that is why we will be offering identity cards to those working airside in our airports from later this year.

In December 2007, Stephen Boys Smith was commissioned by the Transport Secretary to conduct an independent external review of personnel security arrangements in the UK transport industry. His key conclusion was that effective personnel security starts with identity and that identity cards would play a useful addition to identity assurance at airports and elsewhere in the transport industry. We continue to believe that this is correct and that identity cards will provide and help with enhanced security but we believe that compulsion would be counter-productive given the need to ensure the right environment for their introduction.

We believe the evaluation of identity cards for airside workers will demonstrate the benefits that identity cards can bring to the pre-employment and airside pass issuing processes at Manchester and London airports and that these benefits will encourage airside workers to apply for an identity card. We will continue to work with the aviation industry to agree the ongoing roll out of personal identity cards to airside workers, so these process improvements can also benefit others.

For foreign nationals (from outside the European Economic Area), compulsory identity cards will play an increasingly important part in the delivery of an effective immigration policy and for proving identity and entitlement to work. Therefore I have asked the UK Border Agency to look at how it can speed up the rollout of identity cards for Foreign Nationals including to foreign national airside workers.

A further five Statutory Instruments under the Identity Cards Act 2006 have also been laid before Parliament. These will now be brought before the House for approval. These will be required to allow for the start of the issue of identity cards on a voluntary basis in the autumn.

I am determined to ensure that there is proper oversight of the way the National Identity Service is introduced in order to build public trust. We will shortly be announcing the appointment of the independent Identity Commissioner. I will also be introducing a Public Panel, made up from people from different regions, to ensure that the views of the public are properly reflected and to help us develop an identity rights charter. All of this work will fit within our strategy for safeguarding identity across Government.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland (Corporate Plan and Business Plan)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the "Youth Justice Agency's Corporate Plan for 2009-11" and "Business Plan for 2009-10" in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Business Plan contains 14 key performance targets I have set for the agency for 2009-10. These are:

85 per cent. of youth conference reports completed within statutory requirements.

At least 85 per cent. of referrals to result in a youth conference and of those, at least 80 per cent. of young offenders to be satisfied with the process.

Achieve a victim attendance rate of at least 60 per cent. for youth conferences and of those, at least 80 per cent. of victims to be satisfied with the process.

90 per cent. of young people remanded to the Juvenile Justice Centre for one week or more to have a bail assessment commenced within five working days.

90 per cent. of young people under community supervision complete their orders.

All young people referred to the agency under statutory orders to have their risk of offending and other needs assessed and appropriate plans developed.

All young people under a Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO) leaving custody will have a reintegration plan in place for the statutory supervision period within the community.

No escapes from within the Juvenile Justice Centre.

Maintain a rate of restraints within the upper quartile of the best performing similar-sized secure centres in England and Wales.

All children in custody for seven days or more to be screened for mental health needs and, where necessary, referred on to appropriate services.

Maintain level of expenditure within approved budgetary limits.

Publish and lay audited and unqualified 2008-09 annual report and accounts before Parliament prior to its summer recess.

Achieve Investors in People re-accreditation.

At least 80 per cent. of staff to confirm that their essential learning and development needs are being met to a satisfactory level.

TRANSPORT

Olympic Route Network Designation Order 2009

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The "Olympic Route Network Designation Order 2009" has today been laid before Parliament. The Order comes into force on 22 July 2009.

The Order lists the roads that are to form the Olympic Route Network (ORN)—a network of roads between venues and accommodation to be used during the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games ("the Games") by vehicles carrying the athletes, officials and media—the Games Family—who are at the heart of the games.

London committed in its bid and in the host city contract for the games to have an ORN. This was because the lessons and experience of previous host cities is that this is the most effective way to provide the safe, secure and reliable transport for athletes, officials and media between venues and accommodation that is critical to the games' success.

The Government's objectives for the ORN are to meet the Games Family's needs while at the same time minimising the impact on residents, businesses and visitors to ensure London and the rest of the UK are kept moving.

The laying of this Order follows consideration of the responses received to the Department for Transport's consultation between December 2008 and March 2009 on the roads to be included in the ORN. A full report on the consultation responses and the Government's response will be available on the Department for Transport's website at: www.dft.gov.uk and in the Libraries of both Houses. A number of changes have been made to the roads in the ORN in the light of those responses. The Government's response also sets out the Olympic Delivery Authority's plans, starting this summer, to engage and consult with residents, businesses and other stakeholders on the design, implementation and operation of the traffic management measures to be applied on the ORN roads during the games.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am today able to announce the publication of the Department for Work and Pensions departmental report.

The report is the Department's first annual report under CSR2007 and provides details of the Department's performance in 2008-09 within the context of the economic downturn.

The report will be available on the Department's website today and copies are available in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 1 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Education (Student Support) Regulations

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): This Government remain committed to ensuring finance is not a barrier to higher education, enabling people to make the most of their talents and improving their life opportunities. I welcome the latest figures released today that show that more people from lower socio-economic groups are going into higher education, with the proportion increasing 3 percentage points since 2002.

Overall there are 300,000 more students in higher education than there were in 1997. We have achieved this owing to continued Government investment, which is over 25 per cent. higher in real terms than in 1997.

We are committed to maintaining this increased investment, and funding for student support will be increased in 2009-10 by 4 per cent. compared with 2008-09. In cash terms, we are planning to spend over £5 billion on student support this year, and even more next year.

In 2006, we introduced a radical new package of student support aimed at supporting those who need it most. We predicted that around a third of students would get a full non-repayable grant; in fact about 40 per cent. may receive a full grant, beyond our expectations.

In these difficult economic times, we are continuing to take difficult decisions in the interests of students, universities and taxpayers alike.

We have therefore decided to maintain the current package of maintenance support for full-time students, reflecting the current low inflationary environment.

In 2010-11 students starting a full-time course will be eligible for the same level of up-front maintenance support that was available for new students in 2009-10:

the full maintenance grant will remain at £2,906.

the family income threshold for a full maintenance grant will remain at £25,000.

the family income threshold for a partial grant will remain at £50,020.

maximum maintenance loans and thresholds will remain at 2009-10 levels, which for a student living away from home outside London could be as much as £4,950 a year.

Students continuing their studies in 2010-11 will also be eligible for the same levels of maintenance support that they received in 2009-10.

In addition, new and continuing full-time students will be able to access a fee loan of up to £3,290 a year, which has been increased by 2.04 per cent. in 2010-11 to reflect the up-rating of the maximum tuition fee level.

A similar increase applies to fee and course support for new and continuing part-time students in 2010-11, which reflects our continuing commitment to part-time study.

For full-time "old system" students (mainly those who started their courses before 2006) the same principles apply: their fee contribution loans and fee grants will be up-rated by 2.04 per cent. and their maintenance support will be the same as in 2009-10.

We have also decided to align the financial support for new entrants to postgraduate and equivalent initial teacher training courses with what is available for the generality of undergraduates. Bursaries and other payments for students undertaking initial teacher training will remain available.

In over 500 constituencies, numbers of young undergraduate entrants to higher education have increased since 1997 and the 20 most deprived constituencies all show higher than average growth over that period. Some of the poorest areas have seen the biggest percentage increases in young higher education entrants. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) has been a key driver of rising participation post-16, and independent evaluation shows that it also has a positive impact on attainment at levels 2 and 3.

To help maintain this increase in participation overall, we will continue to encourage those in receipt of the EMA to think about progression into higher education. In these difficult economic times it is both fair and reasonable to expect that those students who see an improvement in their financial circumstances are assessed for student support, according to their need. We have therefore revised our plans for a guarantee of student support, and will offer students in receipt of EMA a clear quote of the student support they will receive if their circumstances are unchanged at the time they apply for higher education.

The student support regulations will be laid before Parliament today and, following approval by Parliament, will need some weeks to implement. I have asked the Student Loans Company to begin processing new applications for student support as early as possible during the autumn term and for returning students in the new year.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Recognition

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 10 June, the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), informed the House of plans to introduce a new national form of recognition for the families of those armed forces personnel who die on operations or as a result of terrorist activity while on duty. These plans were based on the recommendations of the military Chiefs of Staff. The Secretary of State said that the recognition would be in the form of an emblem for wear and a Memorial Scroll similar in concept to those that were issued to the families of those who died in the two world wars and in Korea in the early 1950s.

Much detailed work has been undertaken since that announcement. We had hoped to provide more details before now but there were sensitive and complex issues involved which required much time to work through.

I am pleased to be able to announce further details of this recognition to the House today. These details, recommended by the Chiefs of Staff, have been welcomed by MOD Ministers, endorsed by the cross-Government Committee on Honours and Awards and approved by Her Majesty the Queen. In particular, I am delighted to inform the House that Her Majesty has asked that the emblem should be known as the Elizabeth Cross.

The Elizabeth Cross is made of hallmarked silver and is in the form of a cross with laurel wreath passing between the arms. The arms of the cross bear floral symbols representing England (Rose), Scotland (Thistle), Ireland (Shamrock) and Wales (Daffodil). The centre of the Cross bears the crowned Cypher of Her Majesty the Queen. The reverse of the Cross will be engraved with the name of the service person in whose memory it is granted. A miniature version of the Elizabeth Cross will also be granted. Both will be presented in a black leather style presentation box with the Royal Cypher on the lid and the Royal Coat of Arms on the inner silk lining.

The Memorial Scroll is on parchment style paper, headed with the Royal Coat of Arms and the following words "This Scroll Commemorates ... who gave his/her life for Queen and Country on..." The Scroll will bear the signature of Her Majesty the Queen in the upper left hand corner.

The Elizabeth Cross And Scroll will be granted in national recognition of their loss and sacrifice to the next of kin of UK armed forces personnel who have died on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism. Eligible personnel to be remembered in this way are those who were serving with, or former members of, the regular and reserve armed forces or the Royal Fleet Auxiliary when deployed in direct support of a designated operation. It is important to make the distinction that this is not a posthumous medal for the fallen but national recognition for the family for their loss. The next of kin of eligible personnel whose deaths fall into the following categories will be recognised in this way:

Those who died from whatever cause while serving on a medal earning operation. Medal earning operations are those in which deployed personnel received a campaign medal, general service medal or operational service medal which demonstrated the risk and rigour involved. Operations where a UN, NATO or other international body or other nations' campaign medal was accepted for wear, in the absence of a UK medal, also qualify.

Those who died as a result of an act of terrorism where the available evidence suggests that the service person, whether on or off duty, was targeted because of his or her membership of the UK armed forces.

Those who died on a non-medal earning operational task where death has been caused by the inherent high risk of the task.

Those who died a subsequent and premature death as a result of an injury or illness attributed to the circumstances outlined above.

In addition to recognising future operational deaths in this way, deaths in the circumstances outlined above that occurred after 1 January 1948, or as a result of service in Palestine since 27 September 1945, will be recognised retrospectively. These dates reflect the fact that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission attributed deaths up to 1 January 1948 to World War II service (with the exception of Palestine).

The next of kin will receive both the Elizabeth Cross and the Memorial Scroll. For retrospective claims and when the next of kin is deceased, their legal successor may apply.

Only one Elizabeth Cross is to be granted for each death recognised but an additional scroll will be available to the following (or their legal successors) where they are not the next of kin:

The parents of the deceased.

The spouse/partner of the deceased or someone who had a substantive relationship with the deceased.

As a Memorial Scroll was issued at the time to those who died in the Korean war, the Elizabeth Cross only (and not the new Scroll) will be issued in remembrance of those who died during that war.

As with all forms of recognition, there will be those who fall outside the qualifying criteria. There is a risk involved in much of what the armed forces do routinely. Some members of the armed forces sadly die, for example, in training incidents or in road accidents in the United Kingdom. While any death is a tragic loss to the family concerned and to the armed forces, the Chiefs of Staff recommended this new recognition for the special circumstances of operational duty. In addition they considered that the terrible circumstances where an individual was targeted by terrorists because of their membership of the armed forces should be similarly recognised.

The first Elizabeth Crosses and Memorial Scrolls will be granted from one month today on 1 August 2009. From today, families of those who died in qualifying circumstances are invited to apply for the Elizabeth Cross and Scroll to the MOD medal office, who will administer the scheme. It is simply not possible to contact the families of all those who may be eligible going back over 50 years as address details held for next of kin are likely to be out of date.

Full details of how to apply, including an application form, can be found via the MOD website at: www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/defencefor/veterans/medals/, while those without access to the internet may call 0800 085 3600 and ask for details to be sent to them.

For new qualifying deaths after 1 August 2009, it is intended that, in most cases, the next of kin will be offered the opportunity for the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll to be presented privately and in an appropriate way at the time of the funeral if they so wish.

For retrospective cases, next of kin who are resident in the UK will be offered the opportunity to receive the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll at a formal presentation ceremony in the region where they live. Such presentations may be made by a Lord Lieutenant or a senior military representative. It is likely to be some months before these events are arranged as locations will very much depend on the number of recipients living in a particular region and we cannot establish this until applications are received.

If they prefer, families may choose to receive the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll by recorded delivery. Next of kin living overseas will normally receive the cross and Scroll in this way.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in our armed forces and who have done so in the past. That debt extends to the families who support them and who bear the burden while loved ones are deployed away from home. I am delighted that the families of those who sadly die in the circumstances that I have described are now to receive some tangible evidence of the nation's gratitude in the form of the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll.

Members will be able to view the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll from this afternoon in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

The Law on Damages

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): We are today publishing the Government response to the consultation paper "The Law on Damages", together with a summary of the responses to consultation.

The response paper indicates that changes will be made to the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 to extend the categories of people eligible to claim damages for bereavement to include children under 18 for the death of a parent; cohabitants of at least two years duration for the death of a partner; and unmarried fathers with parental responsibility for the death of a child under 18.

The ability to claim as a dependant of the deceased person will also be extended to include any person who was being wholly or partly maintained by the deceased person immediately before the death.

The response paper also confirms our intention to make certain changes to the law in relation to damages for gratuitous care and on aggravated and restitutionary damages.

Copies of the Government's response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp0907.htm

TRANSPORT

Franchised Rail Services

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

> This morning, National Express Group has announced that they will not provide the further financial support necessary to ensure that their subsidiary, National Express East Coast, remains solvent. As a consequence, National Express East Coast is no longer able to continue its franchise agreement to its full term.
>
> The Government's first and overriding obligation in this situation is to ensure continuity of service to passengers, with no disruption or diminution of service standards. When the Government have had to step in to protect rail services in the past, there has been no such impact on passengers.
>
> I have therefore established a publicly owned company, which will take over this franchise from the point at which National Express East Coast ceases to operate. We will agree an orderly handover with National Express. Until that date, National Express will operate services on the current basis; after that date the new public company will do so. There will be no interruption of services. Existing operational staff—who continue to provide a good service—will transfer to the new East Coast Main Line company; so will the assets necessary for the continuation of the service. I can assure the travelling public that services will continue without disruption and all tickets will be honoured.
>
> National Express also operates rail services on the East Anglia main line and associated commuter routes. The company has said that it does not intend to default on its obligations in respect of these franchises. Notwithstanding this, the Government believe they may have grounds to terminate these franchises, and we are exploring all options in the light of the group's statement this morning. In the meantime, we expect National Express to meet its obligations on these franchises in full.
>
> A company which had defaulted in the way National Express now intends would not have pre-qualifed for any previous franchises let by the Department. I note that the parent groups of previous franchise failures are no longer in the UK rail business. It is simply unacceptable to reap the benefits of contracts when times are good, only to walk away from them when times become more challenging.
>
> It is the Government's intention to tender for a new East Coast franchise operator from the end of 2010. The specification of the new franchise will reflect my concern to secure better passenger services and facilities. I intend to consult fully on the new franchise specification, including with passenger groups, parliamentarians and the Scottish Executive.
>
> The rail franchising system was examined by the National Audit Office last year. It was found to deliver good value for money, and steadily improving services. Passenger numbers are at their highest levels since the 1940s, punctuality is over 90 per cent. and overall passenger satisfaction is steadily rising. The revenue from rail franchises is enabling us to make record investments in upgrading the network and services on it.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order (Culture)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Culture and other fields) Order 2009 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7668). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 2 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

A Better Deal for Consumers

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): I am today publishing a consumer White Paper: "A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future".

The White Paper sets out the Government's new, more active and strategic approach to financial and other consumer markets. It follows publication this week of "Building Britain's Future", which sets out the Government's plans for creating growth and jobs as the economy moves out of recession, and a vision for improving consumer rights in public services. This White Paper deals with consumer rights in the wider economy.

Consumers have been seriously affected by the turmoil in the financial markets, as well as by the longer term changes in the way that goods and services are bought and sold. We are taking decisive action to provide real help for consumers now and to enhance and enforce consumer rights in a changing world.

Businesses now face tighter margins and more competitive prices, which can act as an incentive to provide greater choice and lower prices. This can lead to increased transparency, greater profitability for the most efficient and an opportunity to build and develop customer loyalty. It is also important at all times, but particularly in these challenging economic times, that Government are committed to minimising the burdens, including regulation, on business.

"A Better Deal for Consumers" outlines the real help we are providing now for people in financial difficulties, together with longer term measures we are planning to bolster confidence and help consumers exercise greater personal responsibility, while protecting consumers from unfair practices, and ensuring effective and proportionate enforcement.

The White Paper focuses on four key themes:

Real help now for vulnerable consumers

A new approach to consumer credit

Empowering consumers through better enforcement and information

Modernising consumer law

It sets out the real help we are providing now for vulnerable consumers. It describes practical actions to help consumers facing challenging economic circumstances, including measures to help keep people in their homes and help people in difficulty in debt. These measures include help for home-owners in mortgage arrears and tenants who are falling behind on their rent, a new self-help toolkit for those in debt, and measures to ensure more responsible debt recovery practices.

The White Paper describes a new approach to consumer credit, setting out how we intend to make the consumer credit market work better for consumers. It includes proposals to reform credit card regulation (including a ban on the sending of unsolicited credit card cheques), new requirements on all lenders to check credit worthiness of consumers before they lend to them, and a review by the Office of Fair Trading of high- cost credit providers.

It also sets out measures to empower consumers through better enforcement and information. Consumers need clearer information and better enforcement in order to take advantage of, and not be taken advantage of by, new and rapidly developing markets. Actions include a new consumer advocate who will co-ordinate work to educate consumers, and be a champion for consumers. The White Paper also gives details of a new national strategy and specialist team for internet enforcement on consumer issues, and a central "fighting fund" to tackle rogues operating on a big scale.

Building on evidence gathered in the consumer law review, the White Paper sets out our plans for modernising consumer law to enhance and protect consumer rights in a changing world. We will do this through a new Consumer Rights Bill, which will implement in due course the EU consumer rights directive and modernise and simplify UK consumer sales law.

"A Better Deal for Consumers" has been produced in consultation with the devolved Administrations. In those policy areas where the Government's responsibilities extend, the proposals outlined will apply across the UK. However, other aspects of policy highlighted in the White Paper are devolved, in differing settlements, to the Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Devolved Administrations can tailor their policies to deliver public services which meet the specific needs of each country.

The proposals and actions in this White Paper will form the basis of a consumer policy that responds to change and helps all consumers make informed and responsible choices.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Government Decontamination Service

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Government Decontamination Service was laid before Parliament today.

This is the final report and accounts for the Government Decontamination Service which from 1 April 2009 became part of the Food and Environment Research Agency.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick): The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency was laid before Parliament on 1 July.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Turks and Caicos Islands

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant): On 16 March 2009, the Minister with responsibility for the overseas territories informed the House of the publication by the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) of the interim report of the commission of inquiry into whether there was information that corruption or other serious dishonesty in relation to past and present elected members of the TCI House of Assembly may have taken place in recent years. In his interim report, the Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Robin Auld, found there was information in abundance pointing to a high probability of systemic corruption and/or serious dishonesty. In Sir Robin's view this, together with clear signs of political amorality and immaturity and of general administrative incompetence, demonstrated a need for urgent suspension in whole or in part of the constitution and for other legislative and administrative reforms.

On 31 May Sir Robin delivered his final report to the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In that report, the Commissioner has confirmed that nothing that has happened since he submitted his interim report has prompted him to change his original view. His close examination of the information and evidence before the inquiry has reinforced, not weakened, his conviction of a need for urgent and wide-ranging systemic change. On systemic weaknesses, he confirms the recommendations in his interim report covering: partial suspension of the constitution and interim direct rule; criminal sanctions and civil recovery; integrity in public life, Crown land allocation, sale and management; and a new constitution. Some recommendations focus on deterring or preventing corruption and other serious dishonesty, while others look at the broader constitutional and statutory framework of governance. He recommends the appointment of an independent expert on the management and allocation of Crown land as well as strengthening the Governor's Office and Attorney-General's chambers.

The Commissioner's final report also makes preliminary findings, and recommendations including the institution of criminal investigations in relation to former Premier Michael Misick, and four of his former Cabinet Ministers. It confirms the recommendation in the interim report for the establishment of a Civil and Criminal Recovery Unit and the appointment of a special prosecutor.

The Commissioner states that the information he has gathered points to a high probability of systemic corruption and/or other serious dishonesty involving past and present elected Members of the Legislature in recent years. This same information (and his preliminary findings against individuals) has highlighted weaknesses in the law and its administration.

Although the Governor intends, if possible, to publish the full final report in due course, he is not currently able to do so owing to legal proceedings brought in TCI by two persons named in it. Consequently, I hope that a redacted version of the final report will be published as soon as possible.

Legal proceedings are also ongoing in the United Kingdom, relating to the Order in Council made on 18 March which would suspend parts of the TCI Constitution. This was to be expected and it will take time for this to run its course. However, I am determined to push forward now with the implementation of recommendations in the final report that do not depend on the entry into force of the Order. To ensure that good governance can be reestablished as swiftly as possible in TCI, the Governor, with the full support and assistance of the British Government, is therefore taking steps to appoint experts to work in areas of concern highlighted in the final report. These include: a special adviser to the governor to oversee reform of the public service; three public financial management advisers; an economic adviser; a good governance adviser and a crown land adviser. Other governance recommendations are under active consideration. Direct support for the Governor has also been increased with the appointment of an additional senior FCO official to his office.

A special prosecutor and Head of the Civil and Criminal Recovery Unit, and a senior investigating officer have been identified and the necessary procedures relating to their appointment are now under way. The holders of these positions will work together with a team on the investigations recommended by the Commission. I will announce further details soon.

In summary, the British Government are working hand in hand with the Governor to start implementing Commission recommendations without delay and remain determined to do everything in our power, as swiftly as possible, to tackle systemic corruption and to restore good governance in TCI.

I wish to acknowledge, again, the help and support provided by the keen eye of the FAC in highlighting the situation in TCI.

HEALTH

Correction to Written Answers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): I regret that the following written answers contained information which was incorrect:

> the written answer given to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 689W;
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 353W;
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for Romsey on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 831W;
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 387W;
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1016W;
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1913W; and
>
> the written answer given to the hon. Member for Stockton South (Ms Taylor) on 5 July 2006, *Official Report* column 1236;

These answers all related to the number of E112 forms issued by the Department of Health, to UK citizens seeking planned treatment in another European Economic Area (EEA) member state. The incorrect information which was given, was a result of IT problems and data-capture issues faced by the Department of Health team in Newcastle responsible for the collation of E112 information. The correct processes and systems are now in place.

The correct number of E112 forms issued for proton therapy in another EEA member state is as follows:

Year	*E112s Issued for Proton Therapy*
2006	5
2007	14
2008	10
Total	29

The correct number of E112 forms issued between 01/0408 and 30/06/08 by country of treatment is as follows:

Country	*Countries of Treatment*
Austria	5
Belgium	15
Finland	7
France	100
Germany	26
Greece	3
Italy	6
Netherlands	2
Spain	9
Sweden	7
Switzerland	8
Czech Republic	11
Hungary	5
Poland	141
Slovakia	8
Total	353

The correct number of E112 form issued between 2002 and 2008 is as follows:

Year	*Number of E112 Forms Issued*
2002	1393
2003	1287
2004	503
2005	360
2006	412
2007	534
2008 (between 01/01/08 and 27/10/08	923

No. E112 forms covering fertility treatment in another EEA member state were issued between 2002 and 2008.

Equivalent data in relation to all written answers for years prior to 2002, are not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forced Marriage Guidelines

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): Today the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit) launches revised forced marriage multi-agency practice guidelines intended for all front-line practitioners (such as teachers, police officers, social and health care professionals, housing officers) to help them to work more closely together to better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage. These practice guidelines have been designed to provide step-by-step advice to front-line workers and have been produced to complement the statutory guidance, which came into force with the launch of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act in November 2008, which sets out the broader strategic responsibilities of chief executives and senior managers in tackling forced marriage locally.

These new guidelines are available from the House Library, can be accessed on the Forced Marriage Unit's website, www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage, or hard copies can be obtained directly from the Unit at the following address:

Forced Marriage Unit
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room G58
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 3 July 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 7 July 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Presentation of the presidency work programme

The new Swedish presidency will present its ECOFIN work programme for the second half of 2009, which Ministers are invited to debate in line with article 8 (4) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Follow up to the 18 and 19 June European Council

a) Financial supervisory framework

Following conclusions adopted at the June ECOFIN and by Heads at June European Council, the presidency is expected to outline its strategy for taking forward work on European financial supervision and regulation. The UK is content with the outcomes of both meetings; having secured among other safeguards, commitment in both sets of conclusions that any new powers granted to existing or proposed bodies would not impinge in any way on member states' fiscal responsibilities.

b) Climate change financing

Heads at the June European Council agreed conclusions on the financing of climate change. The presidency will outline its strategy for member states to reach agreement on a negotiating mandate at the October European Council. The UK believes that work should continue to ensure the EU reaches agreement on the key issues suitably in advance of the Copenhagen conference in December.

Preparation for the G20 meetings

Ministers will exchange views after a meeting of G20 deputies to be held in Basel on 27 and 28 June. This will begin preparation of further meetings in London of G20 Deputies on 3 and 4 September and G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 4 and 5 September. The Government look forward to working with the presidency and member states to ensure that work taken forward at G20 complements work at EU level.

Pro-cyclicality

Following on from progress made at the informal ECOFIN in April, Ministers will be asked to adopt Council conclusions on pro-cyclicality. The Government agree that banks will need to build counter-cyclical buffers in good times, and strongly support ongoing technical work through the Basel Committee to examine the forces that contribute to pro-cyclicality in the financial system and possible mitigating options, as well as the efforts by the EU which complement work by the G20.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

a) Adoption of legal acts in the excessive deficit procedure

ECOFIN will be expected to adopt Council decisions for member states having breached the 3 per cent. budget deficit criterion, formally entering these countries into the Excessive Deficit Procedure. Council recommendations will also be issued for the correction of these excessive deficits.

b) Adoption of Council opinions on updated stability and convergence programmes

The Council will be asked to adopt Council opinions on the updated stability and convergence programmes of Slovenia, Slovakia, Austria, Belgium and Romania.

Any Other Business

Medium-term Budgetary Objectives (MTOs) and Implicit Liabilities

Following from ongoing work at committee level, ministers will exchange views on the incorporation of implicit liabilities into Medium-term Budgetary Objectives (MTOs). As a country which is neither in the Euro-area nor a member of the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERMII), the UK is not obliged to set a numerically defined MTO. Any changes to the methodology of incorporating implicit liabilities into MTOs should not change countries' obligations under the Stability and Growth Pact.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Code for Leasing Business Premises

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): I am today publishing a report by the University of Reading on the dissemination and use of the 2007 Code for Leasing Business Premises.

The property industry introduced the present version of this voluntary code in response to continuing Government concern about the degree of flexibility in the commercial property leasing market and the lack of information and advice available to small businesses about the implications of property leasing. The new code is an excellent document which, if implemented, would make a big difference. Besides a code of practice for landlords, the code provides step-by-step guidance for tenants taking out leases and a "heads of terms" document enabling them to see at a glance the commitments they would be taking on.

We undertook to monitor the implementation of the code. As a first step, we commissioned Reading University to study the dissemination and use of the code once it had been in place for a year.

This report about dissemination and use of the 2007 Code paints a very disappointing picture. It suggests that small business tenants are not receiving any substantive information on the code from any source. Except for some well-advised major tenants, the code is not a primary tool for the negotiation of new leases.

If parties do not know about the code and do not use it, it will have no impact. The property industry has asked us not to legislate in this area, and we have held back to give the 2007 Code a chance to work. But if the more substantive research shows that the market has not responded, legislation is bound to come back on to the agenda.

I call on the property industry, while there is still time, to redouble efforts to disseminate and use the code—every tenant negotiating a lease should have a copy and be encouraged to use it. In particular, the professions—surveyors and solicitors—have a special responsibility for making it available. A professional, modern industry will surely have an interest in ensuring that its customers are fully and properly informed about the leasing choices they are making. The UK commercial property industry should be a world leader, not just in its level of sophistication, but also in the fairness with which it operates.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Correction to Oral Answer

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In my response to the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory) during oral questions on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 159, I said:

> "In respect of India, he will know that British aid now amounts to about £240 million over this spending review period, but it is on a declining trend, and by 2011 will have stopped, not because of the Indian nuclear programme but because India is becoming a richer country. It is clear from international development legislation since 1997 that development aid should be directed according to poverty, and that is the basis on which India is pulling itself away from aid, according to its own wealth-generating potential".

It has been brought to my attention that the information I gave in my response was incorrect. We have no plans to scale down the provision of aid to India, nor to stop the provision of aid by 2011. Our aid expenditure under current spending plans amounts to £285 million in 2008-09, £275 million in 2009-10, and £280 million in 2010-11. These figures reflect India's continuing levels of poverty, with over 450 million Indians living on less than $1.25 a day, but also its own achievements in generating wealth.

HEALTH

NHS Pay Review Body Report

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am responding on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the 24th Report of the NHS Pa Review Body (NHSPRB) (Cm 7646) which has bee laid before Parliament. Copies of the report are availabl in the Vote Office. I am grateful to the chair an members of the NHSPRB for their report.

We welcome the NHSPRB's 24th Report and accep most of its conclusions and actions which we will tak forward.

The NHSPRB made one recommendation of a shor term national Recruitment and Retention Premium (RRP for pharmacists working in the NHS, paid at Agend for Change (AfC) pay bands 6 and 7.

After careful consideration, I have decided to rejec this recommendation because:

the recruitment and retention difficulties vary widely in Englan but are not significant in Scotland, Wales and Northern Irelan so a national RRP, which would be applied UK wide, i inappropriate;

in England, local recruitment and retention difficulties will b best addressed by increasing supply and using local recruitmen and retention premia where needed alongside other local initiative to support the training and development of junior pharmacists and

the additional expenditure that would be required to implemen the national RRP is unreasonable at a time when resource available to the NHS and the wider economy are being tightene and efficiency savings required from the NHS increased.

I am grateful, however, that the NHSPRB has highlighte difficulties retaining junior pharmacists in the NHS i England and, to address those concerns, the followin actions are being taken forward:

the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board, chaire by Dr. Keith Ridge, the Chief Pharmacist for England, an responsible for the development of the pharmacy workforce i England, is working with the strategic health authorities t increase the number of pre registration pharmacy trainin places in the NHS from 2010;

updated guidance about the use and application of local recruitment and retention premia has been given to the NHS Staff Council which will consider it as part of its wider revie of RRPs. The NHS Staff Council, made up of NHS employer and unions, is responsible for overseeing the Agenda for Chang pay systems;

we will draw local employers attention to the recommendation and deliberations of the NHSPRB about use of remuneration to resolve local pharmacy vacancy challenges, thereby informing their decision about whether paying a local RRP is appropriate; and

the NHS will continue to make use of specific local initiatives to support the training and development of junior pharmacists, for example, flexible working, protected study time and funding to support study for post graduate diplomas.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 6 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

MG Rover Investigation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): My noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson, has made the following statement.

> The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is announcing today that the Serious Fraud Office has been asked to consider whether there should be a criminal investigation following completion of an inquiry into the collapse of the MG Rover Group.
>
> The decision was taken after the Department studied a report produced by independent inspectors appointed by the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry after MG Rover Group went into administration on 8 April 2005 owing creditors nearly £1.3 billion.
>
> The inspectors were appointed under Section 432 of the Companies Act and had wide powers to require documents and the attendance of witnesses, including directors, officers and agents of the company. They investigated the affairs of MGRG, its parent company Phoenix Venture Holdings and MGR Capital Limited and 32 related companies between the purchase of MGRG from BMW in May 2000 and the date of it entering administration.
>
> The inspectors delivered their report on 11 June 2009. Following legal advice this report will not be published at this time in order to ensure any potential prosecution is not prejudiced. The position will be reviewed following the outcome of the SFO's considerations.

TREASURY

HM Treasury (Vote on Account)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): This statement gives notice of a resource commitment in advance of the authorisation by Parliament of supply provision for HM Treasury in 2009-10. There are no implications for cash spending.

In the 2009-10 "Vote on Account" (HC 1039) presented in November 2008, HM Treasury was voted resource provision of £142 million to cover spending on continuing services until the 2009-10 main estimates are voted by Parliament in July. The amount on account excluded any provision for financial stability related resource consumption as, at the time, this was expected to be zero.

However, it has since been decided that a cost of capital charge should be applied to the Government's financial stability related loans and investments. Cost of capital charge is a non-cash resource charge, accruing on a daily basis, designed to improve transparency under resource accounting and encourage the efficient use of assets. For 2009-10, the charge is forecast to be £450 million which will not be available until the provision in the Treasury's 2009-10 main estimate, presented (today) as HC 514, is voted by Parliament in July. This means that the proportion of the £450 million resources that will be consumed befo[illegible] end of July (i.e. £135 million) will take resource spe[illegible] over and above the £142 million authorised in the "Vote on Account" causing a resource commitment in advance of supply.

HEALTH

Top-up Fees (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): Following the publication of a House of Commons Health Committee report on top-up fees on 12 May 2009, I am today laying the Government's response before Parliament (Cm 7649). The response is in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (Code of Practice)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): The new edition of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's code of practice for infertility clinics and embryo research centres has been laid before Parliament today. The code has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Licence Revocation Audit

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and I are today announcing the publication for the first time of information relating to those offenders who have been released from prison on licence, subsequently recalled for whatever reason and who have not yet been returned to custody.

That information is published today and a copy of the information released has been placed on the Home Office and Ministry of Justice websites at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/docs/licence-recalls-returns-info-release.pdf

http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/Speeches/licence-recalls-returns-custody

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/docs/licence-recall-statistics-notice.pdf

It is also available in the Libraries of both Houses and in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It covers the period 1984 to 31 March 2009.

Context

1. This information is being published following an audit of the work of police, probation areas and the United Kingdom Border Agency. It was carried out by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), which has responsibility for licence revocation policy.

2. In seeking to protect the public from known offenders after their release from custody, the police and probation services deal with some of the most highly unpredictable people in our society, many of whom lead chaotic lives. We have ensured that these services have the powers which they need to manage such offenders.

3. Many offenders return to the community on licence following a period in prison and complete a successful rehabilitation. But others are prone to breaking the conditions of their licence and therefore become subject to recall to custody.

4. All offenders serving a sentence of 12 months or over are released from prison under licensed supervision to the probation service. They are all subject to a set of standard licence conditions, requiring them to report regularly to the probation service, live at an address approved by the probation service and to be of good behaviour. In many cases, they will also be subject to additional licence conditions, which are designed to help the probation service to manage the offenders effectively in the community. These licence conditions can place a wide range of restrictions or requirements on the offender, for example, to undertake offending behaviour work, not to enter an exclusion zone, abide by a curfew or to live in a specific hostel.

5. Offenders are told at the outset of their period on licence that they may be recalled to custody if they breach any of the conditions of their licence. Reasons for recall range from a deterioration in an offender's behaviour which leads the probation service to conclude that there is an increased risk of the offender committing further offences, to a failure to maintain contact with their offender manager. The probation service does not have to wait until a further offence has been committed before an offender is recalled.

6. The Government have taken a number of steps over the last 12 years to strengthen this recall system. In 1999, the use of executive recall powers was extended, a step which has proved to be both swift and effective. Previously, prisoners serving sentences of four years or less could be recalled only through the courts—and, as this was a slow and bureaucratic process, it was rarely used.

7. In the Criminal Justice Act 2003, we extended the period of the licence applied to determinate sentence prisoners serving sentences of 12 months and over, so that the licence does not expire until the end of the sentence. Previously, such licences expired at the three quarter point of the sentence. The number of prisoners recalled was 13,467 in 2008-09.

8. This Government have also overseen a significant improvement in the probation service's enforcement of licences. In 1997, enforcement audits showed that appropriate enforcement action was being taken in only a third of cases where prisoners were serving sentences in the community. By 2008, over 95 per cent. of licence breaches were being effectively enforced.

9. In April 2007, we introduced an end-to-end target for recalling offenders, covering the period from the decision to recall the offender to the offender being returned to custody. The target is for 75 per cent. of offenders to be returned to custody within 74 hours, where they are subject to emergency recall, and within 144 hours, where they are subject to standard recall. Performance against these end-to-end targets has improved to 70 per cent. being returned in target timescales in October 08 to March 09 from 60 per cent. in the same period a year earlier.

Recall process

10. The recall process is as follows. On behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice, NOMS considers whether to approve a recommendation for recall. The recommendation is submitted by the probation area with responsibility for supervising the offender on licence. Where a recall is approved, NOMS revokes the offender's licence on behalf of the Secretary of State and issues a revocation notice to the police. NOMS sends the revocation notice both to New Scotland Yard's police national computer bureau and to the police basic command unit which covers the area in which the offender's last known address is recorded. At this point, it becomes the responsibility of the police, with input and intelligence from other agencies, to apprehend the offender and return him to custody. All agencies involved in the process give priority to recalling and apprehending those offenders who have previously been convicted of serious sexual and violent offences and who are assessed as potentially presenting a high risk of harm to the public.

11. The audit covered all offenders in England and Wales whose licences had been revoked between 1984 and 30 June 2008. It enables NOMS to determine the precise number of those who have been returned to custody and, for those who have not, the action that has been taken, and is being taken now, to apprehend them. For the future, we have decided, working with the national statistician, regularly to publish information on offenders who have had their licence revoked.

12. Audited data for those who were recalled between 1984 and June 2008 and provisional data for those recalled between July 2008 and March 2009 show that of all those offenders whose licences have been revoked, 954 had not been returned to custody. Ninety one thousand nine hundred and sixty five offenders had their licences revoked between January 1999 and March 2009. On the basis of partial data, and using assumptions where necessary, we estimate the number of licence recalls between 1984 and 1999 to be around 10,000. (Paragraph 6 explains why there were many fewer recalls before 1999.)

13. The audited data show that between January 1999 and 30 June 2008, 81,757 offenders are recorded as having their licences revoked, of whom, as at 26 June 2009, 81,164 had been successfully returned to custody; the remaining 593 (or 0.7 per cent.) have not yet been apprehended. A further 19 offenders who had been recalled prior to 1 January 1999 were also recorded as not having been returned to custody, thus giving an audited total of 612. The provisional data held by NOMS and which has not been reconciled with data held by police and probation, show that in the period from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, a further 10,208 offenders had their licences revoked, of whom, as of 26 June, 9,866 have been successfully apprehended and returned to custody and 342 (or 3.4 per cent.) have not yet been apprehended, though experience suggests that most of these offenders will in due course be returned to prison.

14. The breakdown of the number of offenders whose licences have been revoked and who have not been returned to custody for each of the 42 local criminal

justice board areas in England and Wales is given (table 3) in the information released, together with a breakdown of the offenders' index offences (table 2).

Follow up action

15. As part of the process of completing the audit, NOMS wrote to each police force and probation area in England and Wales, enclosing a list for each area of all offenders who have been recalled and have yet to be returned to custody. They were asked to check the list for accuracy and to determine whether some offenders might be removed from the list—because, for example, they had been returned to custody under a different name or had died. They were also asked to renew efforts to return to custody those who remained in the community. Following the audit, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) wrote to all police forces in England and Wales, asking them to take priority action to arrest and return to custody all those offenders on the list who had previously been convicted of sexual or violent offences, while also reviewing and renewing their efforts to apprehend the remainder. Intensive reviews of the priority cases are underway and are driving appropriate action.

16. More generally, ACPO will work with forces, and with other agencies and the Home Office to ensure the police continue to do all they can to make the recall system effective. They will identify and disseminate information on what works and how to tackle the main obstacles to speedy arrests in these cases. For example, the Metropolitan police have established a unit in each London borough dedicated to arresting wanted offenders, including those subject to recall. Other forces have instigated dedicated days of action for apprehending wanted offenders. All forces are also working with all the criminal justice agencies to integrate the management of offenders so that, when it is proposed to revoke an offender's licence, the police have the intelligence they need and are best placed to deal with the request and protect the public from the risk posed by the individual.

17. NOMS, the probation service and the police are working closely together to share information and improve working practices. For example, NOMS and the police are working to put in place a new "early warning system" for recall, whereby the Probation Service shares intelligence with the police on the likely whereabouts of the offender at the point at which recall is requested. Better information sharing and a clear and consistent identification of these offenders will greatly assist in ensuring their timely arrest.

18. The Government are committed to improving performance further and all agencies are working to ensure they make the optimal contribution separately and together.

19. NOMS has established a network of "recall liaison officers", covering every probation area and police force to share information and improve performance. Performance data are issued and monitored monthly through local criminal justice boards (LCJBs). A best practice guide has been produced and is shortly to be issued to all LCJBs, designed to improve further multi-agency performance in respect of recall.

20. The performance for each area against the licence recall target for the periods April 2007 to March 2009 is given in the information release. The performance has been broken down by agency and by LCJB area. LCJBs monitor performance against the target. Over the past two years since the target was introduced, there has been a steady improvement in performance across all the agencies. We are committed to working with LCJBs to improve further performance.

21. I am advised by our statisticians that the first release of data in this manner is not a basis for ongoing release. I have therefore asked Ministry of Justice statisticians to work with the national statistician to put a full range of data relating to license recalls and placements back in custody into the public domain on a regular basis in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. A statistical notice has been released today on the Ministry of Justice website setting out the issues and timetable for consultation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 7 July 2009

TREASURY

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Luxembourg)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new protocol to the Double Taxation Convention with Luxembourg was signed on 2 July 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

DEFENCE

Service Complaints System

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): I am pleased to place before Parliament today the MOD's formal response to the Service Complaints Commissioner's (SCC) first annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The MOD accepts the SCC's 17 recommendations and six objectives. I am clear that these will help us to continue improving on our current system and increasing confidence in it among our service personnel. The formal response sets out how MOD proposes to address the recommendations and what we will be doing in the coming months.

Defence Strategic Planning

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The armed forces are an essential element of our national security. They provide the ultimate defence against direct threats to the UK and its overseas territories. They tackle threats to our national security overseas by helping to address conflict, instability and crises across the globe. I know there is strong support in this House for their achievements.

The Government's current priority for the armed forces is to ensure they have the equipment and support they need for operations in Afghanistan. We have approved over £2.2 billion from the reserve for urgent operational requirements in Afghanistan. Overall spending from the reserve, above costs met from the MOD budget, was over £2.6 billion in the last financial year.

But, in parallel, we must ensure the armed forces are fit for the challenges of tomorrow.

The policy set out in the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) and subsequently adjusted in the SDR New Chapter and the 2003 Defence White Paper, delivering Security in a Changing World has stood the test of time. However, it is now more than 10 years since the SDR and the challenges facing defence have inevitably changed in that time.

I am therefore announcing that the Government is beginning a process that will enable a strategic defence review early in the next Parliament. That review, to be set in the context of the national security strategy, will be designed to ensure that we develop and maintain armed forces appropriate to the challenges we face and the aims we set ourselves as a nation.

As a first step, we will undertake an examination of a range of issues, including:

the strategic context for defence, including the lessons we have learned from recent operations and the changing character of conflict;

our experience working in partnership with other arms of Government;

the contribution defence can make to the projection of soft power—exerting influence to prevent conflicts;

technological changes in defence;

the scope for more effective processes in defence, including acquisition;

the modern day requirements on and aspirations of our armed forces personnel.

I intend to publish the results of this work in the form of a Green Paper in early 2010. I recognise there is a wide range of views on these important issues and hope the Green Paper will help build a consensus on these critical underlying issues for defence.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): Together with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I am announcing that the Privy Council has been asked to approve changes to passport fees at their meeting tomorrow by amending the Consular Fees (No. 2) Order 2009, which gives authority for a change in passport fees. The change will take effect on 3 September 2009.

The fees for passport applications made in the UK are as follows; the fee for a standard adult 32 page passport will increase from £72 to £77.50 while the fee for an adult 48 page passport will increase from £85 to £90.50. The fee for a passport for a child will increase from £46 to £49.00. The fee for an adult using the guaranteed one week counter service for a standard 32 page passport will increase from £97 to £112.50, for a 48 page from £105 to £120.50 and for a child from £81 to £96.50. The fee for an adult using the guaranteed same day service for a standard 32 page passport will increase from £114 to £129.50, for a 48 page passport from £123 to £138.50 and for a child from £94 to £109.50. The standard adult passport will continue to be issued for free to applicants born on or before 2 September 1929.

The fees for overseas passport applications made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are as follows; the fee for a standard adult 32 page passport will increase from £124 to £124.50. The fee for a passport for a child will increase from £79 to £79.50. The fee for an adult 48 page passport will increase from £150 to £150.50.

These fees have been set following a comprehensive review with HM Treasury of costs to ensure that the fee for each type of passport service fully reflects the production costs accrued by that service and bears its share of the cost of consular assistance services.

The rise will ensure the Identity and Passport Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is able to continue to deliver the service its customers have come to expect and to deliver security enhancements to passports.

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Bill

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I told the House on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 19 that I had met representatives from the all party parliamentary group for genocide prevention, and they had made a very powerful case for the inclusion of genocide as an extraterritorial offence within our law. Since then I have consulted widely with colleagues about the best way to proceed.

Serious crimes of this nature are best dealt with in the country where the crimes took place. That is where the evidence will be most easily accessible, and where witnesses will be easier to contact. It is also the best solution because witnesses and survivors can see justice being done. Failing that, these crimes should be dealt with by international courts or tribunals where they exist. However, there may be circumstances where these options are not available. We have therefore decided that we should strengthen domestic law in this area.

We propose that, as far is permissible under the legal principles applicable to retrospection, we should seek to cover the categories of crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity from 1 January 1991. It is that date from which the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia had jurisdiction to try offences under the tribunal's statute adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Making these changes will be quite complex. The offence of genocide, along with offences of war crimes and crimes against humanity, is contained in the International Criminal Court Act 2001. From 2001, we have jurisdiction to try those crimes in the UK if committed by a UK national or resident wherever they took place. The 2001 Act is based on the Rome statute of 1998 establishing the International Criminal Court. While international law existed in respect of all these areas earlier, the offences in the 2001 Act may be wider than those recognised before the Rome statute and any change will need to take account of this.

We propose no change to the categories of people covered by the legislation, which should remain UK nationals and residents (including those who commit crimes, and subsequently become resident). However we are exploring the possibility of providing more certainty as to who may (or may not) be considered to be a UK resident.

We intend to introduce these changes by bringing forward amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill at report stage in the House of Lords in the autumn.

TRANSPORT

Merchant Shipping: Public Consultation on Watercraft

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today publishing a consultation entitled "Merchant Shipping - Public Consultation on the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 200X" which sets out proposals to regulate the safe use of all watercraft by bringing them into the scope of the merchant shipping legislation. The proposals also aim to clarify the process for registering them on the UK ship register.

The changes are being considered following a Court of Appeal ruling in 2005 (R v Goodwin) where an accident between two jet skis resulted in serious injuries to one of the riders. The Court ruled that watercraft used simply for having fun on the water, such as jet skis (also referred to as personal watercraft), were not within the definition of 'ship' in the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (MSA). This meant that such watercraft and their users were not covered by the MSA and related legislation, including offences related to conduct endangering ships, structures or individuals.

The consultation paper has two elements:

Safe use of watercraft—At present there is no overarching power of enforcement to prosecute those who use certain watercraft neglectfully, causing accidents or endangering the safety of others.

We are committed to protecting all users of our waters so they can pursue their activities in safety. The proposal to bring all watercraft within relevant provisions of the MSA and related legislation would allow us to take action against the owners and users of watercraft who carry out reckless or dangerous activity on the water. These proposals would bring such craft within the scope of safety requirements, including alcohol and drug offences.

Clarifying the process for registering watercraft on the ship register—As a result of the Goodwin decision, there is also no power for owners of certain watercraft to register their craft on the UK ship register. We are proposing that those sections of the MSA which provide for registration and registration regulations apply to all watercraft so that owners can register them if they choose to.

The consultation will close on 29 September 2009.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 8 July 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Strong accountability is essential if we are to help every child to succeed. The expert group on assessment reported that high levels of school accountability are beneficial for everyone who has a stake in the education system, including pupils, parents and the taxpayer.

Externally marked tests play an important role in our accountability system. The expert group confirmed in its report that external validation of pupils' performance is vital and that national curriculum tests remain the best way of providing objective information on the performance of each pupil and each school.

I am pleased that the great majority of results of 2009 test results, 99.9 per cent., were made available to schools yesterday as planned. Results have successfully been made available to pupils across all subjects, with 99.87 per cent. of results available in English, 99.98 per cent. in mathematics and 99.85 per cent. in science. We will build on this next year and QCA will seek to award a single year contract for test delivery in 2010, which is similar in shape to this year.

I can confirm that tests in 2010 will take place as planned in the week commencing 10 May. Having taken account of QCA and Ofqual's advice, we will seek to implement the expert group's recommendation on moving the test to mid June in 2011; this will help to strengthen transition arrangements for year six pupils; it will also help to embed our assessment for learning strategy and the role of teacher assessment.

The efficient delivery of national curriculum tests and implementation of expert group recommendations play an important part in ensuring that a robust accountability system recognises all school outcomes, providing the greatest possible benefit to children, parents and the public.

TRANSPORT

Transport Personnel Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): It is almost a year since the Department received the independent report on personnel security in the transport industry by Stephen Boys Smith. Much work has been done since then and I can now give the House an update.

The review was commissioned as a health check on the current arrangements and covered all modes of transport. The review consulted more than 80 stakeholders and the report that emerged contained a detailed assessment of current security processes and recommendations of where changes might be needed. Because of the sensitive nature of the subject matter the report was not published in full, but a short summary was placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website. Relevant sections of the report were issued in full to industry stakeholders.

The report acknowledged that protective security is best applied in multiple layers and noted the importance of the existing physical security regimes. But it also pointed out that, as physical security continues to improve, the potential insider threat is likely to increase, and that, although a number of personnel security measures are already in place, there is a case and scope for incremental change. The overarching message of the report was that the time is right for there to be an increased focus on personnel security and that this should be informed by systematic analysis of the risks. The report also pointed to the need for industry employers to take greater ownership of personnel security, but that Government have a vital role in providing advice and assistance in mitigating the risks

We have continued to build on our existing dialogue with the industry with a successful cross-modal conference on 3 October 2008 to discuss how we can collectively improve personnel security in the transport sector. We have established an Industry Sounding Board to help identify areas of concern to industry partners, and to test emerging ideas and proposals within the programme. Following the report's central recommendation, we are currently carrying out a programme of risk assessments with industry stakeholders to identify priority areas. The outcomes of the risk assessments will inform the detail of the future programme of work, however, much continues to be done in the meantime.

We have produced and issued detailed guidance to employers on operating a voluntary regime of overseas criminal record checks. And the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has produced and published detailed guidance on how overseas criminal record information can be obtained and assessed. We have consulted on the introduction of a mandatory requirement for overseas criminal record checks and I am announcing today that such checks will become mandatory for all new staff in posts which are subject to counter-terrorism checks. The necessary regulatory changes will be made, mode by mode starting with aviation where it will become a requirement as of 31 August 2009.

On identity we have been working with colleagues at CPNI and the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) to promulgate best practice guidance on verifying documents. We are supporting the work of the Identity and Passport Service in the delivery of improved identity services, including the roll-out of national identity cards. Stephen Boys Smith concluded that UK identity cards are a useful addition to identity assurance, and we support the decision of the Home Secretary that the objective of better identity assurance can be delivered without the need to make ID cards mandatory for airside workers.

We are examining with industry how best to make use of the range of information available as part of pre-employment checks. We have amended and reissued our regulations to reflect the report's recommendation that the minimum gap period that should be referenced should be extended from 14 to 28 days.

With regard to National Security Vetting (NSV) we have been engaged in wider discussions across Government about the development of NSV policy and process, with the aim of making it more efficient. The Department has increased the resources allocated to this area and is actively exploring other options including contracting work to other vetting service providers.

We have reiterated to industry the need for personnel security measures to be applied down the contracting chain and are exploring how best to use existing inspection regimes to monitor and enforce this.

Personnel security post-recruitment is very important and we are working with colleagues across Government to ensure that policies and practice relating to existing employees are consistent, fair and robust. CPNI has published guidance for employers on handling approaches about their staff from security agencies, and DfT is working to establish agreed protocols for the handling of cases where there are security concerns about individuals already in post.

Finally, we are working with industry and CPNI to ensure that personnel security guidance is appropriately disseminated and focused on the requirements of its intended audience. The Department is considering ways in which this guidance can be tailored to reflect the variety in the scale and structure of companies in the transport industry.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Construction Fatal Accidents

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am pleased to announce that Rita Donaghy has completed the inquiry and I am today able to announce the publication of her report entitled: "One Death is too Many. Inquiry into the underlying causes of construction fatal accidents".

I would like to thank Rita, and her peer reviewers, for the thorough way in which she has carried out the inquiry—involving wide consultation with stakeholders.

We know that many in the construction industry work tirelessly to improve health and safety. But more work needs to be done to bring the number of accidents down. This report makes clear that a culture that expects safe and healthy working, and strong leadership are important for delivering further improvements in construction safety. Despite the welcome recent fall in construction fatalities, any death or major injury is a tragedy for individuals, their families and their colleagues.

The report makes far-reaching recommendations for improving safety in the construction industry, extending across safety repres[illegible] building control, the legal system, training and co[illegible]nce, and public procurement. The Government will now consider the report and its recommendations fully over the summer, working with the industry, trade unions and HSE, before responding later in the year.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 9 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

RDA Board Chairs

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Mandelson) has made the following statement.

I have approved the appointments for the new RDA Board Chairs listed below.

Robert Hough - North West Regional development Agency (NWRDA).

Rob Douglas CBE - South East England Regional Development Agency (SEEDA).

Robert Hough will commence as Chair on 17 August 2009.

Rob Douglas will commence as Chair designate, to ensure continuity from 1 September 2009 and take up post as Chair from 2 November 2009.

The new appointments will be initially until 13 December 2012.

The appointments have been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice.

I have placed further details of the appointments in the Library of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

TREASURY

Budget ECOFIN (July 2009)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I will attend the Budget ECOFIN to be held on 10 July in Brussels. The Preliminary Draft Budget for the European Communities for 2010 will be discussed, with Council looking to agree its first reading position in preparation for a conciliation meeting with the European Parliament, which will be held directly after budget ECOFIN.

Items on the agenda are as follows:

Preparation of the conciliation meeting with the European Parliament;

Establishment by the Council of the draft budget for the European Communities for 2010.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Teachers' Review Body Recommendations

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Part two of the 18th report of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) is being published today, which reviews the appropriateness of the pay award for September 2009 and 2010 which was referred in June 2008. I am grateful for the careful consideration which the STRB has given to this matter. Copies of the report have been laid before Parliament today and my detailed response to it are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office, the Libraries of both Houses and at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

The STRB has recommended that teachers' pay be increased by 2.3 per cent. from September 2009 and September 2010 with adjustments to the inner London pay scales from September 2009 and September 2010.

I am grateful to the STRB for these recommendations which, subject to the statutory consultation process, I intend to accept and implement in full. These recommendations represent the second and third year of a three-year pay award and confirm recommendations first made by the STRB in January 2008.

I also note the STRB's recommendations for regular diversity and equality data collection; encouraging schools to use existing recruitment and retention flexibilities in shortage subjects; and consideration to be given to the introduction of new measures to improve the supply of mathematics teachers. My detailed response contains further information on all of these recommendations.

(The following sets out the full set of recommendations from the School Teachers' Review Body and published in the 18th Report part two (Cm 7652) on 9 July 2009, together with the response from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. The STRB's recommendations below are in bold.)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Part two of the 18th report of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) is being published today. It covers the review of teachers' pay which was referred to the STRB in June 2008. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses and at: http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

In making its recommendations, the STRB was required to have regard to considerations as set out in the remit letter of 25 June 2008. This report reviews the appropriateness of the teachers' pay award for September 2009 and September 2010. It also makes recommendations about regular diversity and equality data collection; encouraging schools to use existing recruitment and retention flexibilities in shortage subjects; and consideration to be given to the introduction of new measures to improve the supply of mathematics teachers. I am grateful for the careful and detailed attention the STRB has given to these matters. I am inviting comments on the STRB's report and my response to its recommendations by 5 August 2009.

Teachers' Pay

The STRB has recommended:

an increase of 2.3 per cent. from September 2009 and 2.3 per cent. from September 2010 in the values of the pay scales and allowances;

that there be an adjustment to the main and upper pay scale for inner London as proposed in STRB's 17th report part one: a minimum starting salary of £26,000 for teachers in inner London from September 2009 and £27,000 from September 2010 and consequential adjustments to the main pay scale; and further enhancement in the value of the upper pay scale in inner London from September 2009 and September 2010.

I am grateful to the STRB for conducting its review of teachers' pay and, subject to the statutory consultation process, I intend to accept and implement its recommendations in full. These recommendations represent the second and third year of a three-year pay award and confirm recommendations first made by the STRB in January 2008.

Other matters arising from the STRB's review

The STRB has further recommended that the Department:

> **undertake regular data collection and analysis to monitor developments in the teacher workforce related to issues of diversity and equality. This should include an ongoing review of matters relating to equal pay and of the extent to which the teaching profession reflects the diversity of the population it serves;**
>
> **should review and strengthen the ways it encourages schools to use existing recruitment and retention flexibilities to address local teacher shortages in mathematics and other priority subjects; and**
>
> **should consider the introduction of new financial and other incentives and measures to improve the quantity and quality of the supply of mathematics teachers. If asked to do so, the STRB would welcome the opportunity to explore the form these might take in a future remit.**

I agree with the STRB's recommendation about data collection and analysis. That is why my Department is developing the new School Workforce Census which will provide comprehensive data on an annual basis about the individual characteristics, contract details and pay of school teachers. The development is being piloted with a view to full live roll-out in 2010. The data collected from schools and local authorities in England will include age, gender, ethnicity, disability and qualifications—all at individual teacher level—to allow detailed analysis related to diversity and equality issues.

I note that the STRB recommends that my Department should take steps to encourage schools to use existing recruitment and retention flexibilities to address teacher shortages in mathematics and other priority subjects at a local level. Following an earlier consultation on how best to encourage increased use of existing pay flexibilities, there was no appetite for any action plans or guidance or other communications. However, a note was added to the 2008 model pay policy, which states "Schools should consider making use of existing pay flexibilities within the school teachers' pay and conditions document—particularly to help with the recruitment of teachers of shortage subjects such as mathematics, science and, in Wales, Welsh. Schools will be expected to meet the costs of any payments from within the budgets they have available". I would like to invite consultees' views on whether any other strategies might usefully be adopted.

I note that the STRB has also said that consideration should be given to the introduction of new measures to attract high quality mathematics teachers in the required numbers. While there is some evidence that the measures we have taken to increase recruitment to shortage subjects such as mathematics and science are working, I would prefer to return to this recommendation once I have further evidence of their impact. Meanwhile I would welcome consultees' ideas, in the context of the recently published 21st century schools White Paper, as to what might be acceptable forms of any such incentives or measures to improve the quality and quantity of mathematics teachers.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Migration Impacts Fund

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): Today I am announcing the successful proposals for England to receive a share of the migration impacts fund. The fund provides £35 million across the UK for 2009-10 financed by a levy on migrants and, subject to a review in the autumn, a similar amount in 2010-11. This money will be used to tackle illegal working practices and reduce local pressure on public services.

This funding works alongside the Government's points based system which means only those migrants the country needs can come here. The money will be made available quickly and directly to local services across the country, including police, schools and hospitals.

These front-line services, police, councils, the NHS and voluntary organisations have identified projects in their area that will make the biggest difference to insulating them and local people against the impact of migration.

Every region of England will benefit, with the amount each receives being weighted towards the areas where international migration has had the greatest short-term impact.

Projects receiving funding include those introducing tougher measures to crack down on rogue employers, those creating more teachers in schools to ensure good results for all and those increasing GP registration to cut pressures on emergency services and A and E.

Fairness in employment:

The vast majority of employers are responsible but a small minority attempt to flout the law, undercut minimum wages and exploit low paid workers, many of whom are migrants. We are funding projects that will protect existing workers through enforcing the minimum wage and by increasing awareness of health and safety regulations ensuring all employees meet their obligations to all workers.

Housing services:

There is no evidence of unfair access to migrants in social housing. However, in some areas local authorities report concerns that the housing used by migrants can be overcrowded or in poor condition. This can lead to local tensions and cohesion issues. Funding is being targeted to this by cracking down on rogue landlords that will improve the quality of neighbourhoods for all residents.

Children and young people:

Funding will be targeted at those schools dealing with a sudden influx of pupils whose first language is not English. This will support extra multilingual teachers freeing up teaching time for the benefit of all the class and helping new arrivals to settle in quickly.

More English language lessons:

Being able to speak English is vital in order to find work and play a full role in the community. Funding provision through the MIF will mean that migrants will be paying for their own classes and ensure that they can access local services properly, reducing the pressure on services and the cost to public services from translation and interpretation.

Community safety:

Migrants to this country should understand our laws and sign up to our shared values. Funding will be provided for projects that tackle anti-social behaviour and will support extra police community support officers.

Health:

Local services report that migrants often do not understand how to access local healthcare in the most appropriate and therefore cheapest way. Funding will be targeted to increase GP registration relieving pressures on A and E.

Every project has been assessed on the basis that it will help migrants integrate into local communities and in doing so benefit the settled community. The agreed grant allocation for this year will be paid in one instalment.

DEFENCE

RAF Force Protection Wing

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): The RAF Regiment provides essential protection to our air assets and armed forces serving on operations in Afghanistan. They are structured, equipped and trained for this specialist role. Their RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters and RAF Regiment Field Squadrons allow air operations to continue despite hostile action, by protecting the base assets, personnel, and particularly aircraft on flight paths approaching and departing the base. They are currently delivering in this role on operations at a number of air, joint-service and international operating bases in Afghanistan and, until recently, in Iraq.

I should like to inform the House that in order to increase the RAF Regiment's capability I have decided to establish an additional RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters and RAF Regiment Field Squadron.

The new RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters and Regiment Field Squadron will increase the time that their personnel spend between operational deployments, will bring harmony levels more into line with guidelines and will have a positive effect on retention of skilled personnel.

Recruitment and training are underway to meet the additional 12 personnel required for the RAF Force Protection Wing Headquarters and 172 personnel for the RAF Regiment Field Squadron. Both units will be formed in October 2009, and are scheduled to deploy on Op Herrick in April 2011.

An ongoing basing study has determined that the optimum basing solution for the new RAF Regiment Field Squadron will be either RAF Shawbury or RAF Leuchars. The basing work for the headquarters is at an earlier stage and the options have yet to be refined.

The final outcome of the studies are expected by autumn 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Campaign for the Farmed Environment

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to inform the House of changes to cross-compliance and of an agreement that has been reached on the approach to recapture the environmental benefits of set-aside. This follows public consultation earlier this year.

To meet the requirements of the common agricultural policy health check for the protection of water resources, new standards will be introduced to cross-compliance. These will require farmers to comply with the existing domestic abstraction licensing regime for irrigation activities and to restrict the spreading of inorganic fertiliser and manure where it is likely to adversely impact on water quality. In addition farmers will be encouraged to implement buffer strips as a voluntary measure to further protect water resources, and the success of this approach will be monitored. We will also consolidate four existing standards relating to soil into one, providing farmers with increased flexibility and clarity and removing the need for derogations to access waterlogged soils. Further simplification will come from clarification of the existing standard protecting hedgerows which will encourage traditional hedgebank management. Lastly, on land not in agricultural production, greater flexibility will be allowed by confirming that a range of non-agricultural activities can be undertaken.

The Government have agreed with the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, and other partners, to set targets to help farmland birds, biodiversity and water quality, through an industry-led voluntary approach to recapturing the environmental benefits of set-aside. This campaign for the farmed environment will be led by the farming industry and is an opportunity to create a successful model for future voluntary partnerships between Government and farmers. The voluntary approach is aimed at the three key beneficiaries of set-aside—farmland birds, other biodiversity and resource protection—through voluntary action and encouraging the uptake of the most valuable options within environmental stewardship.

Under the new agreement, by June 2012 farmers will:

double the uptake of the agri-environment entry-level scheme in-field options, covering 40,000 hectares on top of current levels.

increase uncropped land by 20,000 hectares from January 2008 levels. The campaign will also seek to improve the environmental management of at least 60,000 hectares of this land.

introduce voluntary measures on other land covering at least 30,000 hectares and up to 50,000 hectares.

All this will be on top of a baseline of the land already being managed for environmental benefit which will be measured this autumn. The campaign will tailor activities at a local level working through county groups that will be set up by farmers. I have made it clear there is a mandatory fallback, which could be introduced at a future date if the campaign is judged not to be working, but we will give it our full support.

I will place a copy of the memorandum of understanding signed by the partners in the Library of the House.

Agriculture Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister for Food, Farming and Environment represented the United Kingdom at June's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Richard Lochhead MSP also attended.

There were six substantive agenda items under agriculture and fisheries, and a number of AOB items.

On agriculture, presidency efforts to agree Council conclusions on the future of direct payments under CAP reform were rebuffed. With six statements of opposition, (including the UK), the document was adopted as presidency conclusions.

Ministers endorsed the Council conclusions on the reform of less favoured areas. Ministers also endorsed the Council conclusions on agricultural product quality.

At a closed lunch, Ministers discussed the difficulties in the dairy sector. The Commission informed the debate, which took place in the light of recently adopted European Council conclusions on the dairy sector, with a quarterly report on diary market trends. A number of member states spoke on the present difficulties on the milk market, and questioned the role and power of retailers in managing prices. However none came forward with ideas of what additional measures could be introduced beyond those already in hand.

There were nine agriculture AOB items. The Dutch Minister encouraged Ministers to reflect on the specific recommendations from CSD-17 in respect of agriculture and climate change in the run-up to the Copenhagen climate change negotiations. The incoming presidency (Sweden) also plans to discuss this, notably at its informal Council in September. The UK underlined the importance of the debate and distributed copies of its recently published climate projections for the UK.

The presidency then briefly reported the conclusions on the EU paying agencies conference held under its auspices.

France introduced its paper calling for the rapid implementation of recommendations made by the European Parliament in respect of the Commission's 2008 communication on food prices, and the soon-to-be-adopted recommendations of the high level group on the competitiveness of the agro-food industry. Many member states shared the French concerns, though the UK cautioned that any new regulation needed to be proportionate and evidence-based.

The presidency outlined the progress it had made on the control of trade in illegally logged timber member states, including the UK, urged rapid action to agree the dossier and called for inclusion a ban on the import of illegally logged timber. Sweden, as incoming presidency, said it aimed to reach a Council common position by December 2009.

The presidency also concluded that the proposed regulation updating and harmonising the animal welfare rules applicable at slaughter was agreed, and would be adopted as an "A" point in due course.

Ministers were then updated on the progress of the welfare of animals used in scientific research dossier. Sweden confirmed it would be a priority during their presidency.

Next, the presidency explained their work to reach compromises on the proposals to ban the use of seven pesticides which had not been approved by the relevant regulatory committee. Compromises had been reached on three, which would be approved as "A" points at the June Environment Council. Work was continuing on the other four.

The presidency reported on the limited progress made on the proposal to modernise, simplify and clarify the 30-year old rules on food labelling.

Finally on agriculture, the UK thanked the Commission for the flexibility it had shown so far to help reduce the compliance costs of sheep EID, but stressed that the dossier remained of concern within the UK because of the impact on the farming industry. The UK put forward further proposals for reducing the costs of the regulation whilst retaining the benefits and protection provided by sheep EID, however the proposals were not supported by the Commission.

On fisheries, the Council adopted pre-prepared conclusions on the importance of the aquaculture industry, principally welcoming the Commission's April communication designed to give new impetus to the sustainable development of aquaculture in the EU.

Ministers then held a structured debate on some of the key issues outstanding in the negotiations to agree a new control regulation for EU fisheries, which governs the obligations for monitoring fishing activity to ensure compliance with EU legal obligations. On the main issues, member states were broadly in agreement that there should be tighter controls and better use of technologies to ensure a more cost-effective and workable enforcement regime.

Turning to fishing opportunities for 2010, the Commission pointed to its communication setting out the intended approach to setting catch limits for 2010. When taken with existing multi-annual recovery and management plans for certain stocks, and the scientific advice due for publication on 26 June, an accurate impression of the likely outcomes for each stock can be determined. The UK and others supported the high-grading ban, and the UK noted that economic impact assessment should be undertaken before TAC reductions were agreed to.

Finally under any other business, the Commission gave an oral six-monthly report on CFP simplification, noting more streamlining and the deletion of some obsolete regulations. The Commissioner also thanked member states for having responded well to their obligations on bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science will be laid before Parliament today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I am delighted to announce that the Government are to honour the vital contribution made by the military and civilian members of the Government code and cypher school who served at Bletchley Park and its outstations during the second world war. A commemorative badge will be awarded to all surviving veterans in recognition of their great success in intercepting and decrypting enciphered messages. Enigma is the most widely recognised example of this work, but Bletchley Park and its outstations had many more successes against different cipher machines and manual ciphers. The thousands of people who worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations played a vital part in the war effort, and kept their work secret until the Government avowed its success. The awarding of a commemorative badge is a fitting recognition of their loyal service.

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) will be handling applications for badges. The GCHQ website (www.gchq.gov.uk) contains the necessary details which will also be available on request from GCHQ and at Bletchley Park and other museums. The commemorative badge will be launched at Bletchley Park on 16 July and a celebratory event will be held later this year.

HEALTH

Swine Flu Pandemic

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): As I announced in my oral statement to the House on 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 497, part of the move to the new "treatment" phase of our response to the current swine flu pandemic will involve a new way of collecting and publishing information about swine flu.

The treatment phase refers to the period when antivirals are used only for treating those who have contracted the illness; contact tracing ceases as does providing antivirals for prophylaxis. The swabbing and testing of all cases also ceases.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) had previously been collecting, compiling and releasing United Kingdom figures on a daily basis on their website. These statistics set out the number of laboratory confirmed cases, as well as clinically presumed cases.

Because we will rely on clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory confirmation of swabs to identify cases of swine flu, we cannot continue to measure total number of cases in the same way as we have been doing. This is because without testing everyone we would not know how many swine flu cases there are among other cases of influenza-like illnesses.

Therefore, to replace the data previously published, we will need to move to higher level estimates of spread. This will be combined with other key indicators to give a fuller picture of the progress of swine flu.

The chief medical officer will be setting out today the format and content of a weekly situation report, which will cover:

estimates of influenza-like illness cases, estimated using two different surveillance systems;

the number of calls to NHS information lines for colds/flu;

the number of deaths of patients with swine flu (reported deaths where the cases have tested positive for swine flu); and

the number of hospitalisations (any swine flu inpatient over the past 24 hours who has been H1N1 swabbed or clinically presumed).

This change reflects the World Health Organisation-led move away from the "comprehensive assessment" component of surveillance, where the focus is on characterising the clinical, epidemiological and virological features of a new disease, to the "monitoring" component, where the focus is on monitoring geographical spread, trends, intensity and impact.

The UK has well established, and internationally respected, surveillance systems for monitoring incidence and assessing the impact of seasonal influenza. These systems have operated well through the normal "flu season" over the last few years and we will build on them as we refine the revised surveillance system for swine flu.

The revised system will be augmented by additional surveillance activities that are relevant to the pandemic situation. This will include continuing to assess the severity of disease associated with this novel virus, and monitoring changes in the characteristics of the virus.

In addition to this, hon. Members will receive a weekly update on the impact of swine flu in their local area.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency (Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the "Youth Justice Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09" in the Libraries of both Houses.

This is the agency's sixth annual report since its inception on 1 April 2003. It achieved 10 of its 14 key performance targets and 18 of its 22 development objectives.

TRANSPORT

Smoke-Free Provisions (Ships)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Government introduced restrictions on smoking in enclosed workplaces, public places and vehicles in England from 1 July 2007. These provisions are described in the Health Act 2006 and aim to save thousands of lives over the next decade by reducing both exposure to hazardous second-hand smoke and overall smoking rates.

The Health Act 2006 includes provisions designed to prohibit smoking in enclosed public places and vehicles, but does not cover ships operating at sea or on inland waters. Therefore, the Government stated their intention to introduce similar provisions to provide protection from second-hand smoke for people on ships operating in UK waters (including the territorial sea and inland waters).

In 2007, the Department for Transport held a consultation exercise seeking, first, views on how such restrictions should be applied. Following that consultation, draft regulations have now been produced and are being made available for public consultation from today.

The draft regulations being consulted on are made under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995. They will apply to all ships operating within the 12-mile UK territorial waters, which include inland waters, providing they carry passengers or employees, unless the ship is exercising the right of innocent passage or the right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation. These provisions will extend to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so that a consistent set of UK restrictions can be applied.

Smoking will be prohibited except in areas of the ship designated by the master in accordance with the regulations which may include designated smoking cabins on cruise ships or passenger ferries. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will hold the responsibility for enforcement of these provisions with a scale of penalties similar to those laid down in the Health Act.

Pleasure vessels such as yachts, motor cruisers and small private fishing vessels, are exempted from the smoke free provisions. However, any such vessels carrying fare paying passengers or operating with an employed crew will fall into scope of the regulations.

Copies of the consultation paper and draft regulations have been sent to a wide range of representatives in the shipping industry and they will have 12 weeks to respond to the consultation. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. Further copies of the consultation paper are available on the DfT website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

Petition

Thursday 2 July 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Green Belt (Somerset)

The Petition of residents of the Woodspring constituency and others,

Declares that the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy proposes over 10,000 new homes on Green Belt land surrounding Long Ashton; and further declares that there are feasible options to accommodate necessary new housing without sacrificing the Green Belt.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to withdraw the proposed South West Regional Spatial Strategy and make a renewed commitment to the retention of the Green Belt.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Liam Fox .]*

[P000388]

Petition

Wednesday 8 July 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Christie NHS Foundation Trust

The Petition of the Cash Back for Christie M.E.N. Campaign,

Declares that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme should reimburse the Christie NHS Foundation Trust with the £6.5 million lost in the Icelandic banking collapse.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take action to encourage the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to reimburse the Christie NHS Foundation Trust with the £6.5 million lost in the Icelandic banking collapse.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 7 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 441.]

[P000363]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government note the petition of 'Cash Back for Christies' Manchester Evening News campaign, dated 7 May 2009. We are aware that NHS North West has taken the decision to offer financial support to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, to help them face the challenges resulting from the loss of charitable funds in the collapse of the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme had earlier ruled that Christies was not eligible for compensation under the Scheme for these deposits. The rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) are made by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). These rules and guidance are set out in the FSA Handbook (COMP) which is available on the FSA website.

The FSCS and FSA are independent bodies and the FSCS must administer the Scheme in accordance with its rules, including the assessment of whether or not a claimant is eligible for compensation. The FSCS had decided that Christies was not eligible under these rules and it has no discretion to act outside them.

The Charity Commission is the regulator for the charitable sector and issues guidance on the principles for the investment of charitable funds and the holding of reserves. The Commission's guidance states that 'the basic principle governing trustees' decisions about investing their charity's funds is that they must take a prudent approach', and that trustees must have regard to the suitability to the trust of the investment to be made or being reviewed, and to the need for diversification. While it is Government's role to set out the broad principles and regulatory framework for the management of charitable investments, the third sector is an independent sector.

However, the Government recognise that many charities are struggling in light of the wider economic downturn, and that many are providing valuable support to the most vulnerable people in society during these difficult times. That is why this year's budget announced a new £20 million Hardship Fund to provide grant support to frontline third sector organisations that have been most severely affected by the current global economic turbulence. This built on the Government's £42.5 million action plan launched in February—'Real Help Now: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises'. This package of measures is designed to ensure resources are directed towards the areas of the sector under the most pressure during the economic downturn, helping organisations to modernise and adapt to meet current challenges.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 29 June 2009

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its establishment. [268240]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then there have been no purchases of BlackBerrys or mobile phones for Ministers or special advisers. Details of purchases of BlackBerrys and mobile phones for civil servants and the associated bills are provided in the following tables:

	Purchases	£ *Bills*
2007-08 (October to March)		
BlackBerrys	1,434	[1]0
Mobile Phones	504	[1]108
Total	1,938	108
2008-09		
BlackBerrys	2,168	—
Mobile Phones	204	—
Total	2,372	[2]4,030

[1] Purchases of mobile handsets were made towards the end of the financial year therefore payment of bills did not commence until April/May 2008. Some bill payments were made to owners of existing mobile handsets.

[2] All bills are grouped together on to one monthly invoice which makes it difficult to separate individual charges for BlackBerrys and mobiles.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report, columns* 581-82W, on 10 Downing Street, how many Downing Street-branded wallets have been sold by the gift shop in the last 18 months or nearest equivalent period for which figures are available. [258623]

Angela E. Smith: I have nothing further to add to the earlier answer.

Breast Cancer: Males

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many men have died from breast cancer in each year since 2005. [282926]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many men have died from breast cancer in each year since 2005. (282926)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, for males in England and Wales from 2005 to 2008.

Table 1: Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death,[1] males, England and Wales,[2] 2005-08[3] [4]

	Male deaths
2005	82
2006	69
2007	87
2008	62

[1] Cause of death was defined using the international Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Capacitybuilders: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding Capacitybuilders has provided to charitable organisations active in Tamworth constituency in the last 12 months. [281691]

Angela E. Smith: There have been no direct awards from Capacitybuilders to charitable organisations active in Tamworth in the last 12 months. However, Capacitybuilders have made two awards to the Staffordshire Consortium, one of whose members is the Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service, which will benefit from this funding. The first award was a Consortium Development grant of £52,000 in 2008-09. The second was a modernisation programme grant of £41,596 in 2008-09 to ensure common standards and access across the nine volunteer centres in the district, which is work being led by Tamworth CVS.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 835W, on departmental billing, how much her Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282335]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector in Cabinet Office sponsors two executive non-departmental public bodies—Capacitybuilders and the Commission for the Compact.

Capacitybuilders was formally established in April 2006 and the Commission for the Compact in November 2007.

No payments under the Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 have been made by the Commission for the Compact since its establishment. Capacitybuilders have made interest payments to one supplier totalling £64.94 over the last three financial years.

Futurebuilders: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many loans of each type have been provided by the Futurebuilders programme in Tamworth constituency since the scheme began. [281690]

Angela E. Smith: To date, Futurebuilders England has not invested in Tamworth. However, more widely, Futurebuilders has invested over £4 million in 16 organisations in the west midlands.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby received JSA in each of the last five years. [282532]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in (a) Merseyside and (b) Crosby Point received JSA in each of the last five years. (282532)

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and that claim ending. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims during the May count period of the last 5 years.

Table 1. Median length of completed claims (off-flows) of jobseeker's allowance for claimants resident in Merseyside and Crosby parliamentary constituency

		Months
As at May each year	*Merseyside*	*Crosby*
2005	12.8	12.0
2006	12.1	12.3
2007	12.4	13.5
2008	11.4	10.6
2009	11.8	11.1

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Unemployment: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the unemployment rate among the working age population in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire was in each of the last five years. [282792]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the unemployment rate among the working age population in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire was in each of the last five years. (282792)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and unemployment statistics for unitary and local authorities from a statistical model, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the unemployment rate for people resident in Barnsley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. The latest period for which data are available is October 2007 to September 2008. Unemployment rates are normally provided for people aged 16 and over, rather than people of working age, thus estimates provided are consistent with this definition.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Unemployment rates[1] for people resident in Barnsley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire

	Unemployment rate (percentage)		
12-month period	*Barnsley[2]*	*Doncaster[2]*	*South Yorkshire*
January to December 2004	4.5	4.8	5.4
January to December 2005	4.9	5.2	5.2
January to December 2006	5.9	6.1	7.1
January to December 2007	5.7	6.1	5.8
October 2007 to September 2008	6.4	6.9	6.9

[1] Number of unemployed people aged 16 and over as a percentage of the economically active population.
[2] Model based estimates.
Source:
Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to encourage construction companies on the Olympic site to use waterborne freight. [281746]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) encourages all contractors to use the waterways, where possible, to transport materials. The ODA's work to open up navigable waterways will actively encourage contractors to employ sustainable transport methods at every opportunity.

Contractors are also embracing this challenge, for example, Team Stadium (the consortium constructing the Olympic Stadium) is building offloading facilities near the stadium to enable movement of materials by water. Two of the ODA's other tier 1 contractors, Veolia Environmental Services and Aggregate Industries, have also committed to using the waterways to transport materials in and waste out. Veolia Environmental Services, the site waste management contractor, is expected to have the first barge carrying waste out of the park in late June following the opening of Three Mills Lock (formerly known as Prescott Lock).

The target set out in the Sustainable Development Strategy published in 2007 stated that 50 per cent. of materials (by weight) would be transported by rail or water. Figures published in April show that the ODA is already achieving 57 per cent. of deliveries by rail alone.

The ODA also continues to work closely with British Waterways, Transport for London, the Department for Transport and the Port of London authority to create and promote opportunities to transport materials by water.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether construction companies working on the Olympic site have clauses within their contracts to encourage waterborne freight. [281747]

Tessa Jowell: While there is no specific requirement or clause in relation to the use of sustainable transportation methods, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) emphasises its commitment to sustainability throughout the procurement process, for example, by inviting prospective contractors to provide proposals to meet the ODA target of transporting 50 per cent. of construction materials (by weight) by sustainable means (rail and water).

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* goods and *(b)* other materials which will be transported to the main Olympic site by water. [281748]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) delivery management system keeps a record by weight of all deliveries and removals to and from the Olympic Park. With the completion of dredging works, the regular use of the waterways is scheduled to commence around the end of this month. The proportion of sustainable deliveries by water will then be able to be calculated from Q3 2009 on a monthly basis.

The target set out in the Sustainable Development Strategy published in 2007 stated that 50 per cent. of materials (by weight) would be transported by rail or water. Figures published in April show that the ODA is already achieving 57 per cent. of deliveries by rail alone.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympic sailing events at Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour. [281643]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games including at existing venues.

The enhanced facilities at Weymouth and Portland Harbour, completed in November 2008, are the first of the Olympic and Paralympic venues to be completed, and will have already delivered an early legacy of world-class facilities for elite athletes and the local community to use well ahead of 2012.

These enhanced facilities were constructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority ahead of schedule and within the overall approved budget of £9.2 million.

The direct costs associated with staging the events at Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse from London 2012 venues, including Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour. However, these costs such as in security and transport systems have not yet been identified separately for individual events and will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what technologies are used for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects sponsored by his Department. [279036]

Joan Ruddock: The first carbon capture and storage demonstration competition project at commercial scale will involve post-combustion capture of CO_2 from a coal-fired power station with offshore storage. Project selection for further commercial scale demonstrations will be against a number of criteria and these are set out in our consultation, "A Framework for the Development for Clean Coal", published on 17 June 2009. The Government would look to demonstrate a range of CCS technologies.

The Government also supports component and pilot scale demonstration through the Environmental Transformation Fund, Carbon Abatement Technologies demonstration programme. To date one project that will demonstrate a 40 MW Oxy-fuel combustion system has received support.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277725]

Joan Ruddock: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming into force.

As the hon. Lady is aware, the Government will also be publishing supplementary appraisal guidance this summer. This will help to ensure that adaptation measures are designed and implemented in a cost-effective manner.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278833]

Joan Ruddock: The number and proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt since the inception of the Department on 3 October 2008 are as follow:

	Invoices	
	Number	*Percentage*
November 2008	388	73
December 2008	568	88
January 2009	657	98
February 2009	571	99
March 2009	709	96
April 2009	606	98
May 2009	725	97

The data for October 2008 are not available.

Departmental Co-ordination: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much pooled funding is available to support cross-departmental co-operation on building a low carbon economy. [265213]

Joan Ruddock: Development of policy to support the building of a low carbon economy is the responsibility of a wide range of Departments and is funded through departmental budgets. While there is no pooled funding specifically to support cross-departmental co-operation, departments are working together on policies to support the move to a low carbon economy. On 23 April the Government published "Investing in a Low Carbon Britain" which sets out the Government's investment plans for the transition to a low carbon economy, as well as providing detail on new cross-departmental funding to provide targeted support in the low-carbon sector. The Government will also, later this summer, publish a low carbon industrial strategy which will set out the policy and investment framework for maximising the economic benefits of the transition to a low carbon economy.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281945]

Joan Ruddock: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing.

DECC was established after the information in this report was collated, therefore the percentage of meat, fruit and vegetables procured domestically within the estate currently occupied by DECC is included within the information provided in the above report under DEFRA.

A third report is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

Lighting: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to the encouragement of usage of compact fluorescent lamp variety light bulbs in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278850]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not allocated any funding specifically to the East of England to encourage the use of compact fluorescent lamp variety light bulbs (CFLs).

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 13 March, 23 April and 25 May 2009 on his constituent Mr. A. Bridgen. [280691]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member, and a reply from my noble colleague, Lord Hunt, will be issued shortly.

Plutonium

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 725W, on plutonium, if he will publish on his Department's website *(a)* the minutes of the meeting on plutonium management held on 21 May 2009, *(b)* the presentations made and *(c)* the materials submitted by attendees for circulation at the meeting; and what further steps he intends to take in respect of plutonium management. [279463]

Joan Ruddock: A transcript of the meeting that includes the copies of presentations and material submitted by attendees will be published on the DECC website in early July. A summary report will also be published on the website at the same time.

With respect to plutonium management, officials are considering the basis for a public consultation which would be expected to begin in the autumn.

Solar Power

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department has provided to the solar photovoltaic industry since Budget 2009. [281130]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 18 June 2009]*: Since the Budget of April 2009 we have allocated an additional £5 million to solar PV applications under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 bringing the total commitment to £31.5 million. An additional £9 million will be made available for solar PV applications under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 from 1 July 2009.

Solar PV also receives support through the Renewables Obligation (RO). Since 1 April 2009, all microgenerators (50 kW and under) can apply for the highest level of support under the reformed RO (2 ROCs/MWh).

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households received assistance under the Warm Front programme in 2008-09; and how many households he estimates will receive such assistance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [279459]

Joan Ruddock: The following tables detail *(a)* the number of households assisted in 2008-09 and *(b)* the estimated number of households to be assisted in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

It is important to note that the estimates for these years are based on current, yet contingent information, including the available budget for these years—which may change. The estimates do not take account of the anticipated reductions in the costs of work which are expected as a result of the changes to scheme processes being enforced through the ongoing contract renegotiations with eaga which are not yet complete. A number of changes of this kind have been agreed, including the introduction of competition between installers for work which will drive down costs, meaning more homes than those quoted below may be assisted.

It is also essential to note that these estimates have been affected by the recent increase in the Warm Front grant maxima. While the uplift will lead to fewer homes being assisted, it also means that fewer of the homes that are assisted will be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of the work.

	(a) Number of households assisted
2008-09	233,594

	(b) Estimated number of households to be assisted
2009-10	215,000
2010-2011	91,100

TRANSPORT

Airports: South East

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received about the creation of a Route Development Fund for airports in the South East; when he plans to respond to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [281102]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has received a letter from Kent county council with outline proposals for a Kent and Essex Route Development Fund, covering Manston, Lydd and Southend airports. The Department expects to respond to the letter shortly.

Aviation: Disabled

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 21W, on aviation: disabled, if he will seek discussions with the European Commission to reduce or end restrictions and extra charges by airlines on passengers who require supplementary oxygen. [281317]

Paul Clark: European Regulation 1107/2006 on the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air does not impose specific obligations to carry or provide oxygen in the cabin. The Department for Transport has raised the issue of carriage of medical oxygen with the European Commission at a recent meeting of national enforcement bodies for Regulation 1107/2006.

The Commission is due to review the regulation in 2010. To help the air transport industry to comply with its obligations under the regulation, the Department has published an updated version of its code of practice 'Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility'. The code includes a section on oxygen which advises that air carriers may approve the carriage of small gaseous oxygen or air cylinders required for medical use, but notes that carriers will wish to ensure that these do not pose a risk to security. The code also recommends that portable oxygen concentrator devices should normally be allowed if battery powered. Where air carriers wish to supply medical oxygen to passengers on request, the code acknowledges that it would be possible to make a charge for this service to cover the provision of the oxygen.

Bus Services: Standards

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to publish the Regulations on Quality Contracts. [282541]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1267W.

Driving Standards Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Driving Standards Agency office in each of the last five years. [282144]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency does not hold data by individual location.

Information requested has been supplied for the Driving Standards Agency in total:

	Directors	*Senior managers*	*Specialist and delivery staff*	*Support and administration*
2004-05	8	55	19	2,627
2005-06	9	62	19	2,667
2006-07	8	85	21	2,543
2007-08	9	90	22	2,598
2008-09	9	110	25	2,611

Driving: EU Action

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps at EU level to seek to ensure mutual recognition of driving disqualifications in all EU member states. [282982]

Paul Clark: The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1998 European convention on driving disqualifications. The necessary primary legislation in connection with this convention forms part of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003.

The convention does not come into practical effect across all member states until all 15 original signatories have adopted it. I understand that only Spain has done so.

However, the convention also allows member states to bring in arrangements early. The UK and the Republic of Ireland have been discussing a bilateral arrangement to do so together, but no final arrangements have yet been made.

To date, no other EU member state has expressed an interest in making such an arrangement with the UK.

Driving: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many residents of Tamworth constituency had their driving licences suspended in each of the last three years. [282738]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not readily hold this information in the requested format.

Highways Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Highways Agency office in each of the last five years. [281631]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency does not specifically categorise its staff in the requested format. However, in broad terms senior civil servants equate to directors, pay band 7 and 8 to senior managers, pay band 5 and 6 to specialists and delivery managers, and pay band 1 to 4 to executive support and administrative.

The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of transferring commercial vehicle testing to the private sector. [281653]

Paul Clark: Following an extensive consultation process, the Department for Transport announced on 3 July 2008 that the testing of commercial vehicles would continue to be conducted within the public sector by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

However, in order to meet customer requirements for a modern, flexible service, and to reduce vehicle downtime and associated costs for operators, the Agency aims to significantly increase the number of annual tests conducted at private sector premises over the next three years. These tests will still be conducted by VOSA staff.

Road Signs and Markings

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many new *(a)* road traffic signs and *(b)* road markings have been included in the Highway Code in each year since 1997. [282742]

Paul Clark: The Highway Code provides information to road users about the safe and legal use of the network. It is not intended as a comprehensive guide to traffic signs and road markings, but the reference section in recent editions has included a number of depictions and explanations of selected signs and road markings as follows:

Edition	*Total traffic signs*[1]	*Road markings*
1996	189	28
1999	191	31
2004	190	31
2007	200	31

[1] Including traffic signals.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of levels of *(a)* understanding of and *(b)* compliance with road signs and markings among drivers aged (i) between 17 and 24, (ii) between 25 and 30, (iii) between 31 and 35, (iv) between 36 and 40, (v) between 40 and 60 and (vi) over 60 years. [282743]

Paul Clark: This information is not held centrally. However, understanding and effectiveness of certain traffic signs are being considered as key issues for the Department's current review of traffic signs policy.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal road traffic accidents were recorded on roads in Peterborough in each of the last five years. [281701]

Paul Clark: The number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal reported personal injury road traffic accidents recorded on roads in Peterborough in each of the last five years is given in the following table:

		Number of accidents
	Accident severity	
	Fatal	*Injury*
2004	15	916
2005	10	914
2006	8	816
2007	18	716
2008	11	792

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal road traffic accidents were recorded in (i) Southampton and (ii) Test Valley Borough in 2008. [283332]

Paul Clark: In 2008 there were five fatal and 617 non-fatal reported personal injury road accidents in Southampton, and four fatal and 324 non-fatal accidents in Test Valley borough.

Shipping: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to bring forward proposals for a cap on emissions from the shipping industry. [280750]

Paul Clark: The Government are working to achieve international agreement, at the forthcoming Copenhagen conference, on a carbon dioxide emissions reduction target for the shipping sector.

Subsequently, the Government will seek to achieve agreement in the International Maritime Organisation on an economic instrument to achieve reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from shipping, specifically a global emissions trading scheme incorporating a cap.

Shipping: Renewable Energy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of shipping technologies based on non-fossil fuel power sources. [280749]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and its Maritime and Coastguard Agency participate actively in the work of the International Maritime Organisation to promote alternative modes of propulsion for ships. The Department has met proponents of alternative modes of propulsion and encouraged them in their efforts.

Vehicle Certification Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Vehicle Certification Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [282143]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle Certification Agency has spent the following amounts on consultants over the last five years:

	£ million
2004-05	0.1
2005-06	0.1
2006-07	0.1
2007-08	0.1
2008-09	0.1

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will publish the information requested in all outstanding requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information relating to hon. Members' expenses. [282454]

Nick Harvey: The House will fulfil all of its obligations under the Act and the responses to all requests will depend on the circumstances relevant in each case.

Nurseries

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will introduce crèche facilities in the House of Commons. [282447]

Nick Harvey: In July 2008, the Commission asked the Administration Committee to look at child care and assess the level of demand among Members for any change to the current arrangements. The advice is expected soon.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders in Northern Ireland have been breached in each year since 2004. [280643]

Paul Goggins: The relevant authorities have notified the Northern Ireland Office that 18 ASBO holders were sentenced in court for a breach of their ASBO.

Additionally, in two cases, the individual went on to be sentenced again for a further breach. This gives a total of 20 ASBOs that were sentenced in court for a breach.

The annual figures are:

	Number
2005	3
2006	0
2007	11
2008	6

Community Relations: Coleraine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to reduce levels of sectarian tensions in Coleraine. [282289]

Paul Goggins: PSNI officers have been working tirelessly to reduce tensions and provide reassurance to all the communities in the Coleraine area.

Additional PSNI officers have also been appointed to neighbourhood policing teams; they are liaising with community associations to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281078]

Paul Goggins: Five laptop computers have been lost by, or stolen from, the Department and its agencies since 1 January 2004.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds his Department employs. [282299]

Paul Goggins: To monitor the effectiveness of its equal opportunities policies, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) monitors its work force in a number of areas. While the monitoring of community background is mandatory for NIO staff in Northern Ireland, information on other categories, including ethnicity, is provided by staff on a voluntary basis. Records show that 13 staff in the NIO Core Department have declared they are from an ethnic minority background.

Migrant Workers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to ensure the safety of migrant workers in Northern Ireland from attacks against minority groups. [281592]

Paul Goggins: My Department is working closely with other statutory agencies and the PSNI to ensure that migrant workers and minority groups get the support they need.

The Hate Incidents Practical Action (HIPA) Scheme is a regional initiative that is jointly supported by the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit, PSNI and the Housing Executive (NIHE), and provides personal and home security measures for victims of hate incidents.

In 2007, the Criminal Justice Inspection for Northern Ireland published a thematic review of the management of hate crime by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. In response to the report, the Community Safety Forum, a sub-group of the Criminal Justice Board, has drawn up an Action Plan to address the recommendations and to underpin the commitment of the criminal justice system to tackling hate crime.

All criminal justice organisations are working to improve their response to hate crime and to provide help and support to the victims of such crimes.

Northern Ireland Youth Justice Agency: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people work for the Youth Justice Agency. [282307]

Paul Goggins: As of 31 March 2009, the Youth Justice Agency had 368 permanent staff in post.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is taking to increase the number of Catholic recruits to the PSNI. [282280]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Reserves

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many part-time reservists have been retained by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [282741]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Homophobia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to combat homophobia in developing countries. [282285]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

The UK believes that every state has an obligation to protect the rights of all its citizens, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) people, without discrimination of any kind. We regularly raise this with governments of countries where the rights of LGBT people are violated. In countries where same sex relationships are illegal, we continue to press for decriminalisation.

In 2008 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office launched a "toolkit" designed to provide guidance to our posts to help them in lobbying host governments to protect LGBT rights. We work extensively through the EU and other actors to promote LGBT rights including through wider equality and non-discrimination initiatives. At the end of 2008, the UK was heavily involved in lobbying for support for the joint UN Statement on the Rights of LGBT people at the UN General Assembly. This was supported by a number of developing countries.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Leader of the House when she expects the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10 to be published; and if she will make a statement. [282650]

Barbara Keeley: The Government's Draft Legislative Programme was published today as part of 'Building Britain's Future.'

Written Questions

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Leader of the House what steps she intends to take to improve the system of written parliamentary questions in the House. [282679]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. Friend and I keep the issue of written parliamentary questions under constant review and we await with interest the report of the right hon. Gentleman's committee.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W, on British Overseas Territories: young offenders, how many of the personal records held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System relate to cross-border drug offences. [282286]

Chris Bryant: There are 28,175 records relating to all drug offences on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System. However, the system is not designed to differentiate between offences for drug use and those relating specifically to the movement of drugs across borders.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what acreage of land in the *(a)* Cayman Islands and *(b)* British Virgin Islands was designated as (i) environmentally protected and (ii) a site of scientific interest in the last five years. [282311]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is held by the Governments of the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Due to capacity constraints in both Territories, neither has been able to provide the information in the time available. We will revert with the information as soon as we receive it.

Cayman Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Royal Navy ships are deployed in the Caribbean to combat illegal immigration in the Cayman Islands. [282309]

Chris Bryant: Royal Navy vessels are deployed to the Caribbean primarily to support the security of the Caribbean Overseas Territories and Bermuda during the hurricane season.

The Cayman Islands Government are responsible for matters related to illegal immigration.

Cayman Islands: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British tourists visited the Cayman Islands in each of the last 10 years. [282312]

Chris Bryant: The Economics and Statistics Office in the Cayman Islands collates visitor arrivals figures by country of origin. These are available at:

http://www.eso.ky/pagesl.php?page=tourismstatistics

Commonwealth: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the *(a)* Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and *(b)* Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2011 are scheduled to take place. [282592]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commonwealth Secretariat ordinarily arranges Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) for November. In a CHOGM year Commonwealth Foreign Ministers usually meet twice. The first meeting is usually held in the margins of UN General Assembly meetings in September. They then typically meet again immediately prior to CHOGM itself. We have no confirmation of dates, but have no reason to believe this arrangement will be any different in 2011.

Departmental Air Travel

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 233W, on departmental air travel, whether duty staff travelling on journeys by air of over three hours duration may *(a)* claim for business class travel as part of the cost of a first class ticket and *(b)* travel in economy class but claim for a business class ticket. [281710]

Chris Bryant: Staff travelling on duty journeys (official trips) are required to use approved routes, which are usually the most direct and economical. Staff on duty journeys are not permitted to fly in first class and are not permitted to downgrade to a lower class of travel and save or use the balance. Any fare saved by downgrading accrues to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280554]

Chris Bryant: Sir Peter Ricketts, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, has overall responsibility for the energy efficiency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Reports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what unclassified reports his Department's policy planning staff have produced in the last 12 months. [282661]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Strategy Unit (formerly Policy Planning Staff) has produced reports on a range of subjects in this period in order to stimulate policy debate within the FCO. Only one of these has not had a formal classification: on the role of non-traditional actors in foreign policy.

General Affairs and External Relations Council: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the meetings of the General Affairs and External Relations Council in 2010 and 2011 are scheduled to take place. [282588]

Chris Bryant: Spain has announced provisional dates for the General Affairs and External Relations Council for January to June 2010, when it will hold the presidency of the Council of the EU. These dates are as follows:

25-26 January 2010

22-23 February 2010

22-23 March 2010

26-27 April 2010

10-11 May 2010

14-15 June 2010

No dates are yet available for July 2010 onwards.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 73W, on Gibraltar, whether he plans to meet *(a)* his Spanish counterpart and *(b)* representatives of EU institutions to discuss the matter further. [282277]

Chris Bryant: As stated in my previous answer, the UK has made written and oral representations to Spain and to the EU Commission at ministerial and official level. The UK will continue to seek opportunities to raise this matter with the Commission and Spain until such time as the issue is resolved.

Global Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the Fourth Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Session 2008-09, on Global Security: Non-proliferation, HC 222. [282445]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will carefully consider the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Foreign Affairs Committee and reply within two months of its publication

Iran: British Nationality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals are living in Iran. [282290]

Chris Bryant: We do not hold an exact figure for the number of British nationals living in Iran. Our overseas registration system, LOCATE, currently has 306 British nationals registered as living in Iran. Of this figure 281 are resident and 25 are visitors (business/family/education/tourist). However, as there is no obligation to register through LOCATE, the actual figure may be considerably higher.

We continue to encourage all British nationals abroad to register using the LOCATE system.

Madeleine McCann

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has made any representations to the Portuguese authorities on pursuing its investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann in the last six months. [282490]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Lisbon has continued to raise the case with the Portuguese authorities. The head of the Portuguese Criminal Investigation Police has made clear to the embassy that he is ready to consider any credible new leads that come to light.

North America: Embassies

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations his Department held prior to its decision to transfer the passport issue service from the British high commission in Ottawa to the North American Passport Production Centre; and if he will make a statement. [282593]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The decision to transfer passport services from the British high commission in Ottawa to the British embassy in Washington was taken by an internal Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Programme Board in September 2008. This followed consultation with the high commissioner in Ottawa and the ambassador in Washington, other senior managers in both posts, the consular regional director for North America and the geographical directorate in the UK. The FCO director general for change and delivery and the permanent under secretary were both invited to comment on the board's recommendation and subsequently endorsed the decision.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice he *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the implications for the validity of existing ratifications of the text of the Lisbon Treaty of the changes made to that treaty by the arrangements entered into by the European Council on 18 and 19 June; and if he will make a statement. [282594]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to Parliament on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 662 that:

> "When the Council met in December, we agreed that we would seek to provide the legal assurances that Ireland needed to move forward on the Lisbon treaty—that is, on taxation, defence, the right to life, education and the family. But we were equally clear in doing so that there could be no change or amendment to the treaty, only clarification of what it will and will not do. That is exactly the purpose of the guarantees that the Council has agreed for Ireland."

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 661-77, on the European Council, if he will withdraw the UK's instrument of ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. [282595]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to Parliament on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 662, the guarantees for Ireland agreed at the June European Council make

> "no change or amendment to the treaty, only clarification of what it will and will not do."

Parliament has decided on the Lisbon treaty. The treaty was debated in detail in Parliament over 25 days; both Houses voted strongly in favour at every stage. The EU (Amendment) Bill which implements the Lisbon treaty in UK law received Royal Assent on 19 June 2008, and the Government ratified the treaty on 16 July 2008.

UN General Assembly: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 and 2011 are scheduled to take place. [282591]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN General Assembly session opens on the third Tuesday in September every year, as per rule number 1 of its Rules of Procedure available at the UN website.

This will be 21 September 2010 and 20 September 2011. The general debate is normally held the subsequent week.

TREASURY

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 50W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest under the Late Payment Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282322]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not have responsibility for any non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281087]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury Group reports all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office. Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008. The Department has had no personal data security breaches in the last five years.

Additionally, any significant control weaknesses—including other significant security breaches (of which there have been none during the last five years)—are required to be included in the Statement of Internal Control, published within the Department's annual resource accounts.

In the five years to 2008-09 there were six less significant breaches of information security.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies have submitted bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. [283029]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No agency of Treasury has submitted a bid for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009. Treasury has no non-departmental public bodies under its aegis.

Furnished Holiday Lettings Scheme Regulations

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will consult representatives of the *(a)* tourism sector and *(b)* holiday lettings industry on the proposed changes to the Furnished Holiday Lettings Scheme regulations; [282213]

(2) if he will assess the likely effects on *(a)* the economy of rural and coastal areas and *(b)* rural tourism businesses of the changes to the Furnished Holiday Lettings Scheme announced in Budget 2009. [282214]

Mr. Timms: The Government announced the withdrawal of the furnished holiday lettings scheme from 2010 at the 2009 Budget. It will bring forward legislation to achieve this aim in the 2010 Finance Bill.

The Government will be publishing draft legislation for consultation at the pre-Budget report. An impact assessment will also be published at this time.

IBC Vehicles (General Motors) Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on IBC Vehicles (General Motors) Luton of the proposed car scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [271422]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Through the temporary vehicle scrappage scheme, announced at Budget 2009, a discount of £2,000 will be offered to consumers buying a new vehicle to replace a vehicle more than 10 years old which they have owned for more than twelve months. This discount will be co-funded by Government and manufacturers, with the Government setting aside up to £300 million for the scheme.

Assessments of the impact of the temporary vehicle scrappage scheme on individual manufacturers have not been made and are likely to be commercially confidential. Currently, 38 manufacturers, including General Motors UK, are participating in the scheme. The latest figures suggest that over 74,000 vehicles have been ordered through the scheme.

Landsbanki: Guernsey

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 851W, on Landsbanki: Guernsey, whether he has offered the Guernsey authorities a loan with a view to progressing payments to depositors affected by the failure of Landsbanki Guernsey; [282188]

(2) what the timetable is for the conclusion of discussions between his Department and the Guernsey authorities in relation to depositors affected by the failure of Landsbanki Guernsey. [282189]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose the outcome or results of all such meetings and discussions.

Lenders' Panel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Lenders' Panel, on which dates the panel has met since its creation; and which members attended each meeting. [278595]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The lending panel was established at the 2008 pre-Budget report and meets on a monthly basis.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As has been the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Poverty

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Dundee, West of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 422W, on working tax credit, what the evidential basis was for the statement that it is those aged 25 years or over who are most likely to face poorer incentives to work or suffer persistent poverty in work. [282640]

Mr. Timms: Analysis has shown that introduction of the working tax credit halted a sharp fall in the employment rate of people without children at age 25. This analysis was published in March 2008 in "Working Tax Credit and Labour Supply: Treasury Economic Working Paper No. 3", available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
bud08_workingpaper3_455.pdf

The Labour Force Survey, conducted by the Office for National Statistics, also shows that while working people experience substantial wage growth up to around age 25, wage growth for those aged 25 and over is much slower. Someone who is still on a low income by the age of 25 or over is therefore more likely to experience persistent poverty.

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average the Tax Credit Office took to respond to written queries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [282923]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid out in tax credits to deceased claimants in each of the last three financial years; and how much in such payments has been recovered from the estates of the deceased. [282339]

Mr. Timms: For information about the amount of overpaid tax credits, attributable to deceased claimants up to and including 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 244W and on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1786W. The equivalent figure for 2007-08 was around £2 million and information for 2008-09 will be available in May 2010. Such overpayments can arise due to the time taken to notify HMRC of a death.

HM Revenue and Customs do not maintain separate records of the amounts of overpaid tax credits recovered from the estates of deceased claimants.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Regions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the first pilot city regions. [282392]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in Budget 2009 Greater Manchester and Leeds city region as city-region pilots.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the automated valuation model is used for the purpose of council tax valuations and revaluations in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [282396]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(a) Not at present.

(b) This is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Economic Prosperity Boards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what ways the *(a)* role, *(b)* powers and *(c)* funding of economic prosperity boards will differ from those held by local authorities. [282387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The precise role, powers and funding of an economic prosperity board will be proposed by the group of local authorities wishing to form the board, and will be confirmed in a statutory order made by the Secretary of State. Economic prosperity boards will be required to perform their functions with a view to promoting the economic development and regeneration of their area. They will be funded by their constituent local authorities and will not have precepting or levying powers.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what remuneration the members of the Homes and Communities Agency's Housing Finance Group will receive; [282607]

(2) what budget the Homes and Communities Agency has assigned to its Housing Finance Group in each of the next two years; [282608]

(3) how often he expects the Homes and Communities Agency's Housing Finance Group to meet; and if he will make a statement; [282609]

(4) by what date he expects the Homes and Communities Agency's Housing Finance Group to submit its proposals to the Agency. [282610]

John Healey: The details of when the HCA's Housing Finance Group will meet and when it will report are on the HCA's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/finance--advise-investment-housing.htm

The group has no budget of its own but any costs associated with the group's work will be absorbed by other HCA budgets that have been identified for work of this nature.

Members of this group will be paid travel and subsistence costs where appropriate apart from the chair who is taking on this position as part of his wider duties as an adviser to the HCA. Remuneration for his role as consultant is currently in negotiation and will be published in due course.

Housing: Asbestos

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* leaseholders and *(c)* tenants about the health risks from asbestos in residential property; and if he will make a statement. [282466]

Mr. Ian Austin: The housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) is a risk based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced under the Housing Act 2004 and came into effect on 6 April 2006. It applies to all residential properties in England.

The HHSRS assesses 29 categories of housing hazard. Each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the property is rated as having category 1 (serious) or category 2 (other) hazards. Asbestos (and manufactured mineral fibres) are one of the hazards.

In February 2006, "Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Operating Guidance" and "Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Enforcement Guidance" were published. In May 2006 "Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Guidance for Landlords and Property Related Professionals" was published.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* received and *(b)* been refused assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each month since its inception. [282079]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January - April 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website, by following the link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics.

Figures reported by local authorities from January - April 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in negative equity have received assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [282433]

John Healey: In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. From 1 May, the

Mortgage Rescue Scheme was expanded to include some households in negative equity. Monitoring data are available from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

This does not currently include specific information about applicants in negative equity.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* received and *(b)* been declined assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in (i) the London Borough of Enfield and (ii) Enfield, North constituency in each month since the scheme was established. [282567]

John Healey: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) today (PQ 282079).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Welwyn Hatfield and *(b)* Hertfordshire have (i) applied for and (ii) been accepted to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [282963]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) today (PQ 282963).

Planning: Travelling People

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional spatial strategies are being reviewed in relation to provision for sites for Gypsies and Travellers; and when he expects each such review to be completed. [282927]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following regional spatial strategies are being reviewed to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

North-west, Regional car parking standards, Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show people, review scheduled to be completed by 2010;

Yorkshire and Humber, review scheduled to be completed by 2011; West Midlands phase 3, review scheduled to be completed by 2011;

East of England, Gypsy and Travellers alterations, review scheduled to be completed by 2009;

South-east, Gypsy and Travellers alterations, review scheduled to be completed by 2010;

South-west, full review, date of completion to be confirmed: and

London, full review scheduled to be completed by 2011.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the 2006 baseline requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitches is in each region; and what requirement for such pitches for the period 2006 to 2016 has been included in each *(a)* finalised and *(b)* draft regional spatial strategy. [282928]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no baseline requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

The pitch figures included in RSSs are informed by Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments (GTAA) which are prepared by local authorities and fed upwards to the regional planning body which drafts the RSS.

The timescale for the delivery of pitch numbers contained in RSSs varies from region to region, but they typically reflect a need over a five year period.

The pitch numbers contained in each draft and finalised regional spatial strategy are set out as follows:

Draft Regional Spatial Strategies

North-west, partial review, pitch figures being worked up.

Yorkshire and Humber, full review, pitch figures being worked up.

West Midlands, phase 3, pitch figures being worked up.

East of England, partial review, 1,237 pitches.

South-east, partial review, 1,064 pitches.

South-west, full review, 1,672 pitches.

London, full review, 768 pitches.

Finalised Regional Spatial Strategies

North-east, full review, 166 pitches.

North-west, full review, no pitch figures.

Yorkshire and Humber, full review, 255 pitches.

East Midlands, full review, 883 pitches.

East of England, full review, no pitch figures.

South-east, full review, no pitch figures.

London, full review, no pitch figures.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to distribute the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to those super output areas within the highest 10 per cent. of deprivation. [282632]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Working Neighbourhoods Fund is distributed to local authorities that:

have 20 per cent. or more of their lower super output areas in the most deprived 10 per cent. on the employment domain of the index of multiple deprivation 2007; and/or

have 20 per cent. or more of their lower super output areas in the most deprived 10 per cent. on the overall index of multiple deprivation 2007; and/or

are ranked among the top 50 districts with the highest combined benefit/non-employment rate.

The eligibility criteria were the subject of consultation and were carefully developed to ensure that the available funds provided sufficient resource to make a difference in deprived communities with problems of worklessness.

There are no current plans to change the distribution, and we have announced indicative funding for the 2008-09 to 2010-11 spending period.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseeker's Allowance: Construction Industry

15. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of entitlement to jobseeker's allowance of construction industry workers during periods of temporary unemployment; and if she will make a statement. [282362]

Jim Knight: A construction industry worker or anyone else who has been temporary laid-off work, or who is on short-time working, may be entitled to JSA provided they meet certain conditions.

There are no plans to review this policy.

Employment Support Allowance

16. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment she has made of the merits of exempting terminally and chronically-ill employment support allowance claimants from back-to-work interview requirements. [282363]

Jonathan Shaw: In establishing employment and support allowance, we recognised that there are people whom it would be unreasonable to expect to engage in work-related activity.

These individuals are identified through the work capability assessment and are placed in the support group. They do not have to take part in work-focused interviews. People who are terminally ill are also placed in the support group. Whether or not those who are chronically ill have to attend interviews would depend on the outcome of the work capability assessment.

Customers in the support group may access appropriate support provision voluntarily. I believe that this continues to be the right approach and have no plans for placing conditionality requirements upon them.

Jobseeker's Allowance

19. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in Kettering constituency *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [282366]

Jim Knight: There were 1,498 jobseeker's allowance claimants in May 1997 and 2,729 in May 2009 in Kettering constituency.

21. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* East Devon constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [282368]

Jim Knight: In May 2009, there were 1,516,921 jobseeker's allowance claimants in Great Britain and 1,063 in Devon East constituency.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Upminster constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [282358]

Jim Knight: In May 2009, there were 1,516,921 jobseeker's allowance claimants in Great Britain and 1,730 in Upminster constituency.

Employment: Learning Disabilities

20. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to assist people with a learning disability to secure employment. [282367]

Angela Eagle: 'Valuing Employment Now: Real Jobs for People with Learning Disabilities' was launched jointly by this Department and the Department for Health on 24 June 2009.

'Valuing Employment Now' is based on the Government's belief that all people with learning disabilities, like all other people, can and should have the chance to work. To deny people that opportunity is a waste of talent for the individuals, employers, society, and the wider economy.

'Valuing Employment Now' therefore sets out the Government's goal to increase radically the number of people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in employment by 2025.

This is a challenging goal, but one we are committed to.

Older People: Recession

22. **Mr. Joyce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist older people during the recession. [282369]

Angela Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 683W.

Long-term Incapacity Benefit

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance the Government are providing to long-term incapacity benefit claimants. [282360]

Jonathan Shaw: We have already invested heavily to support existing incapacity benefit customers into work by ensuring they can volunteer for any appropriate back to work support available in Pathways to Work. Our recent White Paper announced a strong package of new initiatives to provide further support to this group, including pilots of new innovative approaches such as the "invest to save" pathfinders recommended by David Freud.

Disabled People

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist disabled people to live independently. [282364]

Jonathan Shaw: Independent living is at the heart of the Government's strategy for disabled people and the Office for Disability Issues is leading on two major cross-Government initiatives.

The Independent Living Strategy published in 2008 sets out a five-year plan for making progress on delivering choice and control for all disabled people.

The new Welfare Reform Bill will further empower disabled people by creating a new right giving them greater choice and control over certain state funding streams known as the "Right to Control".

Apprenticeships

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the relationship between the level of unemployment and the number of apprenticeships available. [282365]

Jim Knight: My Department and that of my hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills remain in close contact on a wide range of matters relating to unemployment. Apprentices who lose their placements and become unemployed and claim benefit will have access to all the targeted support offered by Jobcentre Plus to help them move into work as quickly as possible.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in her Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279425]

Jonathan Shaw: The following newspapers and periodicals were delivered to the ministerial private offices for the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009:

Newspaper/periodical titles

Economist
Time magazine
Newsweek
Financial Times
Times
Daily Telegraph
Guardian
Independent
Daily Mail
Daily Express
Daily Mirror
Sun
Spectator
Evening Standard
New Statesman
Private Eye
Tribune
Birmingham Post
Yorkshire Post
Glasgow Herald
Daily Record
Scotsman
Voice Weekly
Eastern Eye
Asian Women
Gay Times
Womens Health
Community Care
Total cost: £13,128.35

The DWP Library delivers *(a)* newspapers *(b)* periodicals to the various Private Offices. Private Offices also receive other publications, such as trade publications and charity magazines direct from other organisations. Information on these is not held centrally so not possible to provide. Some of the publications listed were cancelled during the course of the financial year 2008-09.

Pensions: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations she has received on the supply by individual pension providers of updated information to customers under pension simplification regulations. [282349]

Angela Eagle: I am not aware of any specific representations.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whether the optional protocol to the convention will be designated a European Community Treaty. [282744]

Jonathan Shaw: No, the Government's view is that this is not necessary.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282537]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* Neither DCMS nor the non-departmental public bodies it is responsible for have made any such requests.

Mass Media: Competition

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the likely effects of limiting each media company to single proprietor or group ownership in the media industry; and if he will make a statement. [281776]

Mr. Simon: The Communications Act 2003 requires Ofcom to conduct a statutory review of the media ownership rules every three years. Ofcom are now undertaking such a review and are expected to report back later in the year.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of moving the acquisitions, export and loans unit of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council from London to Birmingham. [282534]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has advised that the costs of moving its acquisitions, export and loans unit to Birmingham are estimated to be in the region of £350,000-£400,000. This figure includes the costs of redundancies, recruitment and retention costs, some additional staffing and travel costs during the transitional period, and a small amount for physical infrastructure for the new unit.

MLA has advised that these costs will be met from within its existing budget and that full details of expenditure will be published in its annual report and accounts.

National Lottery: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding has been awarded to sport-related groups in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282078]

Mr. Simon: The information in the following table gives details of national lottery funding awarded to sport-related groups in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years.

£

Financial year	*Essex*	*Castle Point*
2004-05	9,635,885	368,937
2005-06	2,121,264	4,978
2006-07	1,362,773	18,034
2007-08	3,644,830	22,055
2008-09	2,164,121	40,790

The information comes from the DCMS's lottery grants database, with additional detail from the Big Lottery Fund. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

Radio

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of analogue radios in use in the UK. [282621]

Mr. Simon: Ofcom's research in September 2008 showed that about 45.9 million analogue radio devices were in use in the UK at least once a week. In addition their research showed that there were about 22.5 million cars with an analogue radio.

Tourism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department and its agencies provide to local authorities on the provision of events to attract tourists and visitors. [281270]

Barbara Follett: My Department has been working with the Tourism Alliance, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the local authorities to ensure that tourism-related issues and activities have a more central place in planning guidance.

In addition, my Department has developed, in partnership with the regional development agencies, the Local Government Association, and various local authorities, a document entitled "Place Making: A Charter for Destination Management", which provides best practice guidance to local authorities on the support and promotion of the visitor economy.

VisitBritain provides guidance in the form of its eventBritain programme, and maintains a dedicated website at:

www.eventbritain.co.uk

that outlines its areas of support for UK bidding partners on international events.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to ensure the co-ordination of tourism marketing between regional development agencies and Visit Britain. [281570]

Barbara Follett: DCMS and VisitBritain work closely with partners in the regions. The chair of the South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) (the lead RDA for tourism) sits as an observer on the board of VisitBritain; and representatives of VisitBritain and DCMS participate in regular meetings of the RDA Tourism Leads Group. DCMS and VisitBritain also work with the Local Government Association, and with destination management bodies such as the British Resorts and Destinations Association and Destination Performance UK.

The "Partners for England" initiative, (led by SWRDA and Visit England, and supported by DCMS), is working to develop better resource and policy co-ordination at national, regional and local levels, bringing together stakeholders to address better local authority engagement and performance; improved marketing co-ordination and coherence; improved tourism data and intelligence; and strengthened leadership and co-ordination structures.

The British Tourism Framework Review led by VisitBritain sets a new agenda for tourism, including better co-ordination of the funding invested in tourism and to identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector support for tourism. The review was published by VisitBritain on 11 February and set out recommendations aimed at better co-ordination of the significant public investment being made centrally, regionally and locally. The review's proposals also involve the restructuring of VisitBritain and developing the role of Visit England, which will market England within a more focused partnership at national, regional and local levels.

Tourism: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated for the development of the tourism sector in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280101]

Barbara Follett: Responsibility for tourism in the regions was taken over by the regional development agencies (RDAs) in 2003. Funding for the RDAs is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism. In each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) single programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of regional tourism responsibilities. The Single Pot, which will total approximately £2.2 billion, £2.2 billion and £2.1 billion in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, is allocated amongst the RDAs by BIS. DCMS's contribution will be £3.5 million, £3.4 million and £3.3 million in these years.

The reported tourism investment of the East of England Development Agency (in £ million) was as follows:

The reported tourism investment of the East of England development agency

	Amount (£ million)
2003-04	0.6
2004-05	0.6
2005-06	0.8
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.8

Source:
Visit Britain—British Tourism Framework Review, 2009

Tourism: Regulation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's latest assessment is of the size of the regulatory burden on the tourism industry; and what steps he is taking to reduce that burden. [281250]

Barbara Follett: My Department works with others across Whitehall to reduce the regulatory burden on the tourism industry. Following this January's National Tourism Summit, Government and the industry have been working together to try and resolve concerns about existing, and future, regulatory burdens. These have been discussed by the newly formed Tourism Advisory Council and with tourism leads from the nations and regions.

Following these discussions, I covered the first meeting of the inter-ministerial group on tourism, whose members are drawn from the main regulatory Departments, and asked them to take the economic importance of tourism into account when formulating new, or re-formulating old, regulatory proposals.

Some of my Department's regulatory responsibilities concern the tourism and leisure sectors but, so far, it has achieved a 43 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens against a baseline established in May 2005. These savings in the cost of red tape are derived mainly from the reform of the licensing and gambling regimes.

Youth Culture Trust

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much has been spent on preparing for the establishment of the Youth Culture Trust; and how much he expects to be spent on the Trust in each year to 2011; [277979]

(2) when he expects the Youth Culture Trust to be established. [277980]

Barbara Follett: The aim of the proposed Youth Culture Trust is to deliver the vision of the "Find Your Talent" programme, which we are investing almost £24 million in between now and 2011.

However, until the work of the pathfinders has been assessed, the scale and purpose of the future programme cannot be agreed. The timing and precise arrangements for the establishment of the proposed Youth Culture Trust will be included in these discussions on the scale, purpose, and funding of the future "Find Your Talent" programme.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, when the rules of engagement in Afghanistan were last reviewed; and what changes were made to them as a result. [281677]

Bill Rammell: The UK rules of engagement profile for Operation Herrick was last amended on 5 February 2008. The UK rules of engagement profiles for UK forces deployed in Afghanistan are kept under constant scrutiny with a procedure in place for amendment requests to be sent from theatre to MOD for consideration. In addition, MOD keeps these profiles under constant review to ensure they reflect current legal and policy direction. The ISAF rules of engagement directives are regularly reviewed by Commander ISAF.

I am withholding information on what changes were made on operational rules of engagement as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 58-9WS, on Afghanistan air support, whether the Tornado GR4s are at full operational capability with the urgent operational requirement enhancements which have been delivered. [283005]

Bill Rammell: I can confirm that the Tornado GR4 aircraft deployed to Afghanistan were at full operational capability on initial deployment.

Armed Forces: Equipment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to improve equipment for Army personnel. [282463]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In the past year, we have introduced a number of significant improvements to our equipment for Army personnel. The majority of the improvements relate to force protection including increasing the numbers of existing Electronic Countermeasure (ECM) equipment and an enhancement to the ECM capability.

Improvements to existing vehicles, either complete or under way, include enhanced mine blast protection for the Viking all-terrain vehicle, a series of modifications to enhance Snatch's mobility and protection, and modifications to the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)) to enable the vehicles to perform better in the harsh Afghan conditions.

We have also continued to acquire new vehicles to meet the evolving threat. New vehicles delivered in the last year, or in the process of being delivered, include Mastiff 2, Ridgback and Panther. In addition, we have placed contracts for a number of new vehicles which include the three tactical support vehicles (Coyote, Husky and Wolfhound), Jackal 2, and Warthog. We intend that the tactical support vehicles will replace unprotected vehicles such as the General Service Land Rover and the RB44 operating outside our protected camps.

Viking has now reached its limit to carry extra weight and protection and Warthog will replace Viking on operations.

There have also been recent improvements in the personal equipment issued to our armed forces. These include the purchase of Underslung Grenade Launchers, combat shotguns and the 60mm mortar and improved night vision devices. We have also introduced enhancements to the fit of Osprey body armour which have improved user manoeuvrability. Additionally, a system which allows troops to wear front and back Osprey plates without the soft armour jacket has just been introduced. This system is used by troops who require extra mobility or are operating in confined spaces.

To help counter the significant mine threat in Afghanistan, a system for searching and clearing of mines and improvised explosive devices from roads and predictable routes, Project Talisman, has been ordered. Talisman includes the Buffalo and Mastiff armoured vehicles, a small unmanned air vehicle and the high mobility engineer excavators. Also, additional Vallon hand held mine detectors have been purchased. The Vallon provides a significantly enhanced performance to the detector which it has replaced.

Finally, a range of logistics vehicles such as the support vehicle and the heavy equipment transporter have been modified to 'Theatre Entry Standard' with, among others, improvements to air conditioning, dust filtration, night vision and additional armour. Protected plant equipment such as wheeled tractors have been delivered to operations with a second tranche now on order.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to improve equipment for Royal Air Force personnel. [282464]

Bill Rammell: In the past year, we have introduced a number of significant improvements to our equipment for Royal Air Force personnel.

During 2008, we enhanced our strategic air lift capability by taking delivery of two more C-17s, taking our total C-17 fleet to six aircraft.

We continue to improve our fast jet capabilities with significant enhancements to our Harrier and Tornado fleets. These improvements include our new Paveway IV Precision Guided Bomb, which entered service in December 2008, and which provides the RAF with a state of the art all-weather, day and night, precision bombing capability. The Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone also entered service in December 2008 providing increased target accuracy and reduced risk of collateral damage. We are making good progress on Typhoon too. On 1 July 2008, Typhoon was declared operational in the air to ground role, and on 21 October 2008, deliveries of our Tranche 2 Typhoon aircraft commenced.

We have also increased our surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities with the introduction of the Airborne Stand off Radar, which achieved its in-service date in November 2008.

On helicopters, we continue to deliver improvements to our fleet to ensure the safety, airworthiness and operational effectiveness of our platforms on operations. We continue to increase the number of helicopter flying hours available to our commanders in Afghanistan, which have gone up by 84 per cent. between November 2006 and April 2009 through the deployment of more aircraft and improvements in support and crewing arrangements. By the end of 2009, the Department intends to make the first of the eight Chinook Mk3 Reversion aircraft available for operations and will have deployed the RAF's Merlin Mk3 force to Afghanistan, providing a significant increase to our front-line helicopter capability.

In the past year, there have been a number of improvements in the equipment provided to the RAF Regiment. The latest variant of the Snatch Land Rover, the Snatch Vixen which has improved mobility and protection is currently deployed on operations, as is the new Panther Command and Liaison vehicle. In addition to the new vehicles, there has also been recent improvement in dismounted close combat equipment including the supply of underslung grenade launchers, night vision devices, combat shotguns and the 60 mm mortar.

Armed Forces: Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department provides for the families of service personnel killed in action. [282462]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD places a very high priority on the welfare of its service personnel and their families. To that end, the MOD has robust procedures in place to support immediate family members of service personnel who are killed while on operations. These procedures are under constant review to ensure that the support provided meets the needs of the recipients and reflect current MOD policy. Families are assigned a visiting officer who acts as the link between the family and the services, assisting with such matters as repatriation, funeral arrangements and expenses, and help with necessary paperwork to procure pensions etc. The visiting officers will also direct the family to the most appropriate internal and external welfare agencies for specific areas of support.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation units were in each condition grade in each year since 2001. [266945]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information will take time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member with the information that is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Liam Fox:

In my answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W I undertook to write to you with the numbers of overseas Single Living Accommodation (SLA) and Service Family Accommodation (SFA) units in each condition grade in each year since 2001.

The following numbers of overseas SFA properties, assessed for their Standard for Condition (SfC), were at each Standard in each year since 2003 (earlier figures are not available):

	As at 1 April each year					
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*
S1fC	361	331	618	181	395	462
S2fC	881	479	519	589	408	446
S3fC	754	690	744	237	283	274
S4fC	1,833	1,779	921	1,848	1,687	1,619
Total	3,829	3,279	2,802	2,855	2,773	2,801

'Condition Grade' data for SLA - an assessment of its physical condition and 'scale' (as defined in Joint Service Publication 315) - has only been available since 2007. In 2007 and 2008, overseas SLA was at the following grade:

	June 2007	*June 2008*
Grade 1	2,796	2,707
Grade 2	1,594	1,818
Grade 3	4,848	5,503
Grade 4	17,990	12,375
Total	27,228	22,403

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1015-6W, on modern housing solutions: complaints, how many of the complaints made to Modern Housing Solutions originated in each region. [271256]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Nick Harvey:

In my answer of 28 April 2009, (Official Report, column 1150W), I promised to provide you with further information on the complaints received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) between May 2007 and May 2008 that originated in each region of England and Wales.

Unfortunately, due to age of the data and changes in the way complaints are recorded it has not been possible to provide the requested details for 2007. However, the number of complaints in 2008, broken down by month and Ministry of Defence housing region is provided in the table below.

In addition, I have included a table of number of missed appointments each month where MHS has voluntarily paid compensation to occupants in the form of a £20 gift voucher. Unfortunately, it is not possible to break the numbers down geographically.

Month	*Housing region*	*Number of complaints*
January 2008	East	39
	London	120
	North	37
	South East	116
	South West	105
	West	33
	Total for month	450
February 2008	East	44
	London	114
	North	41
	South East	101
	South West	101
	West	25
	Total for month	426
March 2008	East	37
	London	98
	North	30
	South East	108
	South West	91
	West	18
	Total for month	382
April 2008	East	63
	London	121
	North	29
	South East	102
	South West	88
	West	25
	Total for month	428
May 2008	East	49
	London	113
	North	29
	South East	106
	South West	85
	West	15
	Total for month	397

	Missed appointments
January 2008	208
February 2008	186
March 2008	180
April 2008	303
May 2008	225

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation at each location in England there are at each grade. [274983]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The table provided as follows shows, as of December 2008, the number and percentage of single living accommodation (SLA) broken down by grade. Grade is an assessment of the size, amenities and condition of the SLA.

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		
Region	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Grand total*
East Midlands	1,488	25	809	14	265	4	3,464	57	6,026
East of England	3,989	32	2,680	22	2,337	19	3,289	27	12,295

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		
Region	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Grand total*
London	129	3	1,147	29	654	16	2,066	52	3,996
North East	417	16	159	6	1,423	55	611	23	2,610
North West	101	8	417	32	737	56	57	4	1,312
South East	7,221	19	4,813	12	4,239	11	22,382	58	38,655
South West	8,764	30	3,164	11	4,230	14	13,449	45	29,607
West Midlands	1,236	19	1,129	18	1,907	29	2,216	34	6,488
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,589	31	742	7	2,240	19	5,040	43	11,611
Wales	427	15	489	17	76	3	1,805	65	2,797
Scotland	2,443	33	1,527	21	2,096	28	1,335	18	7,401
Northern Ireland	1,445	36	971	24	900	22	717	18	4,033
Grand total	31,249	25	18,047	14	21,104	17	56,431	44	126,831

Further details on this breakdown are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of service family accommodation as the information is not held in the form requested and will take more time to collate and verify. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with the requested information.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Liam Fox:

In my answer of 14 May 2009 (Official Report: Column 938W) I promised to provide you with the number of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) by location in England, at each Standard for Condition (SfC).

The following table is the best available breakdown of SFA by location, in this case the Department's housing regions, and is correct as at 25 March 2009. This updates information given in my answer to you published on 30 March Col 884W and my Written Ministerial Statement of 17 March and reflects further verification and analysis work including that carried out with the National Audit Office.

Housing region	*S1fC*		*S2fC*		*S3fC*		*S4fC*		*Not assessed*	*Total*
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*No.*
East	1,930	40.55	2,599	54.61	213	4.47	17	0.36	1,618	6,377
London	1,179	20.65	3,613	63.31	800	14.02	115	2.01	1,728	7,435
North	2,092	52.55	1,750	43.96	112	2.81	27	0.68	1,400	5,381
South East	2,797	35.47	4,631	58.73	345	4.37	112	1.42	1,737	9,622
South West	2,255	27.04	5,664	67.92	344	4.13	76	0.91	1,953	10,292
West (inc Wales)	1,338	45.34	1,518	51.44	89	3.02	6	0.20	910	3,861
PFI Properties/ Hirings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,005	2,005
Total	11,591	34.47	19,775	58.82	1,903	5.66	353	1.05	11,351	44,973

Data for the condition of Service Families Accommodation will be updated on a quarterly basis beginning from July 2009, and the information will be placed in the library of the house.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to improve accommodation for service families; [282461]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken to improve accommodation for service personnel. [282460]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This Department is committed to improving the standard of all service accommodation and in addition to the significant increase in investment in recent years. We plan to spend £8.4 billion over the next decade on accommodation, of which £3.1 billion will be on new-build and upgraded accommodation. As announced in the budget, £50 million is being brought forward to be spent on improving service accommodation.

Since 2003, over 35,000 new or upgraded single living accommodation bed-spaces have been delivered, with a further 21,000 planned by 2013.

Since 2001, over 13,000 service family accommodation properties have been upgraded to the top standard for condition with a further 800 planned in this and each financial year thereafter.

In addition, thousands of SFA properties have benefited from improvements such as new boilers, bathrooms and kitchens, which have improved the living conditions for many service families.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 35-6W, on armed forces: housing, what discussions he has had with Modern Housing Solutions on the figures for numbers of married quarters by standard for condition in the Faithful and Gould survey carried out by Modern Housing Solutions. [282754]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The asset condition survey of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales was carried out in order to provide improved management information for reporting on the condition of the SFA estate, and to enable the Department to make improved planning decisions for future investment in the SFA estate.

Although the results of this survey do not impact directly on the terms and conditions of the Housing Prime Contract with Modern Housing Solutions (MHS), officials have worked closely with MHS to ensure the accuracy and validity of the survey results.

We continue to work closely with MHS, and its counterparts, to ensure that the standards of SFA continue to improve. Over 90 per cent. of our stock in England and Wales is already at the two highest standards for condition. Service families are no longer required to live in SFA at the lowest Standard for Condition, although some may chose to do so. From 2012 no families will have to live in properties at either of the two lowest Standards for Condition.

We are committed to housing service personnel and their families in high quality accommodation.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average pension is payable to a soldier who retired after 15 years in the British Army on 30 April 1997 as a sergeant in *(a)* a Gurkha regiment and *(b)* a regiment in the UK. [282128]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Pensions paid under the terms of the Gurkha Pension Scheme, which is now a closed scheme, are calculated in Indian currency rupees (ICR) and paid in Nepalese currency rupees (NCR). This is because the scheme retains a structural link to the Indian Army Pension Scheme and also has the benefit of protecting pensioners from fluctuations in the pounds sterling/NCR rates of exchange. Members of the scheme qualified for immediate payment of pension on completion of 15 years service.

The current rate of pension for a former Gurkha soldier who retired in the rank of Sergeant on 30 April 1997, after 15 years service, is ICR 13,687.64 per month.

Expressed in pounds sterling, at the 1 June 2009 exchange rate, this gives the following annual rates provided below.

Gurkha Sergeant after 15 years: £2,149.56 a year, paid immediately on leaving the Army.

A non-Gurkha soldier who was in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75), unlike his Gurkha counterpart, did not receive a pension until age 60, if he left after 15 years' service. The AFPS 75 pensions for a sergeant as calculated on the last day of service on 30 April 1997 is provided below.

Sergeant after 15 years: Preserved pension of £4,162.13 a year.

There would be no payment until age 60, at which point the pension calculated on the last day of service would be index linked by rises in the retail prices index over the period. While the Gurkha pension is lower it is paid from an earlier age and over a longer period and is therefore well suited to life in Nepal, where it provides an income that equates to a very good working wage.

Gurkha soldiers on leaving the Army on 30 April 1997, on completion of 15 years service, would also have received lump sums, provided below in pounds sterling, but paid in NCR.

Gurkha sergeant

	£
Retirement gratuity	972.61
Resettlement grant	3,201.54

A sergeant leaving the wider Army on 30 April 1997, on completion of 15 years service, would have received a resettlement grant of £6,218. In addition soldiers with a preserved pension receive a pension lump sum at age 60 of three times the sum of their uplifted pension.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282332]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has five service museums classified as executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) that receive Grant in Aid from the Department. During the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, no interest was paid by any of these under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

This does not include any payments that may have been made by commercial trading arms associated with the museums as these are not funded from Grant in Aid and therefore outside of the remit of the Department.

Hebrides Range

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure has been incurred in respect of *(a)* upgrading facilities and *(b)* other purposes for missile testing facilities at (i) the Hebrides Range and (ii) each other such range in the UK in each of the last three years. [282806]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Three of the ranges operated by QinetiQ on behalf of the MOD under the terms of the Long Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) specialise in missile testing—MOD Hebrides, MOD Aberporth and MOD West Freugh. Annual investment at each range since FY 2006-07 is provided in the following table.

£

		Financial year			
Range	*Expenditure*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 (to end Q1)*[1]
MOD Hebrides	LTPA Funded Equipment Investments	955,981	1,306,587	47,251	113,184
	Significant Estate Investments	210,000	[illegible]	530,441	132,990

£

Range	*Expenditure*	*Financial year* 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (to end Q1)[1]
	Non-LTPA Funded Equipment and Infrastructure	0	250,000	0	300,000
MOD Aberporth	LTPA Funded Equipment Investments	25,800	6,268,027	95,043	2,260,970
	Significant Estate Investment	0	0	0	0
	Non-LTPA Funded Equipment and Infrastructure	0	0	0	0
MOD West Freugh	LTPA Equipment Investments	12,257	41,731	28,933	65,753
	Significant Estate Investment	0	0	0	0
	Non-LTPA Funded Equipment and Infrastructure[2]	0	0	47,000	0
Multi-Site	LTPA Funded Equipment Investments	0	1,468,167	8,082,125	1,083,225

[1] Includes currently committed expenditure falling in-year.

[2] Excludes commercially confidential expenditure by BAE Systems.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of aircraft of each type available for training purposes was in each year since 2001. [251706]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Liam Fox:

In my answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W, I undertook to write to you about the number of aircraft available for training purposes in each year since 2001.

MOD-owned aircraft held at flying training units are counted as part of the Forward Fleet. Training aircraft in depth maintenance are not considered to be available to undertake training.

The average number of MOD-owned flying training aircraft in the Forward Fleet and therefore available for training purposes, rounded up to the nearest whole number, in each year since 2001 is provided in the following table.

Aircraft type	*Financial year* 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Hawk	60	60	60	60	60	60	90	90
Tucano	74	76	74	74	74	74	92	92
Jetstream T1	12	12	7	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Jetstream T2	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Dominie	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9
Gliders	146	146	146	146	146	146	146	146

[1] Out of service.

Data for Bulldog aircraft which were retired in 2002 are no longer available. Contractor owned training aircraft are contracted for the delivery of flying hours, rather than a specific number of aircraft. It is up to the contractor to decide how many aircraft are required to deliver the required hours.

All subsequent training on front-line aircraft types, including Conversion to Role, currency and pre-deployment training is achieved during routine flying hours at front-line command units, using aircraft that are also used for operational purposes.

I hope this is helpful.

Piracy: Navy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for New Forest, East of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 626W, on piracy, how many weapons of each type the Royal Navy has seized from suspected pirates in the last 12 months. [282668]

Bill Rammell: The Royal Navy has seized a total of 41 weapons during the boarding of pirate vessels in the past 12 months. These weapons consisted of 31 assault rifles, six rocket propelled grenades and four pistols.

RAF Fylingdales

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the agreement of 5 November 2007 between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to amend the boundaries of the land in the Register of Titles concerning RAF Fylingdales. [282519]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A copy of the agreement to amend the boundaries of the land in the Register of Titles concerning RAF Fylingdales is being obtained and will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as practicable.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on children: protection, under what budgetary headings he expects the £57.8 million new spending to come. [282922]

Dawn Primarolo: The £57.8 million new investment together with the existing £73 million brings Government's investment in the children and families' social work workforce to £130 million between April 2008 and March 2011. This Social Work Transformation Fund is being used to fund children and families' social work workforce commitments made in "The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures; Building Brighter Futures: Next Steps for the Children's Workforce" and the Government's response to Lord Laming's "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report".

The Transformation Fund will increase the capacity of the system to recruit, train and support social workers, and implement change in the immediate term. The Social Work Task Force, established by the Secretaries of State for Health and for Children, Schools and Families will make recommendations on any long term reform needed in the autumn.

This funding is spent under budgetary heading RfR1: To help build a competitive economy and inclusive society by: creating opportunities for everyone to develop their learning; releasing potential in people to make the most of themselves; and achieving excellence in the standards of education and levels of skills.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W, and pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 741W, on departmental air travel, what distance of air travel was offset by his Department in 2007-08; and what proportion of such travel was *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul. [250036]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The total distance of air travel used during 2007-08 to offset travel taken by Department for Children, Schools and Families was 1,790,103 km.

The proportion of travel is broken down as follows:

	km
(a) Domestic	477,167
(b) Short haul	289,996
(c) Long haul	1,022,939

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) were created as a result of the machinery of government changes in June 2007. The number of air miles used to calculate the DCSF payment for the 2007-08 also includes air travel for DIUS (former DfES staff only). To separate these data would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on departmental billing, how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282334]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department currently has nine non-departmental public bodies. They are independent organisations and records are not held centrally by the Department with regard to interest payments to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department and its predecessors in each year since 2005. [274469]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The number of items reported as lost, missing, or stolen are for civil servants and are as follows:

Number

	(i) Ministers		*(ii) Special Advisers*		*(iii) Civil Servants*	
	(a) Blackberry	*(b) Mobile phone*	*(a) Blackberry*	*(b) Mobile phone*	*(a) Blackberry*	*(b) Mobile phone*
2008-2009	—	—	—	—	16	1
2007-2008	—	—	—	—	6	3
2006-2007	—	—	—	—	3	1
2005-2006	—	—	—	—	0	3
2004-2005	—	—	—	—	0	6

Education Maintenance Allowance: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people received education maintenance allowance in each parliamentary constituency in the Lancashire County Council area in each year since the allowance's inception. [282075]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Free School Meals

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities applied to participate in the free school meal pilots. [282021]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: 34 local authorities expressed interest in taking part in the free school meal (FSM) pilot project which will begin in September. Of these, 29 were invited to submit full bids with 13 authorities submitting full bids. Seven wanted to pilot universal FSMs to all primary school children; five opted to pilot the extension of FSM eligibility; and one authority indicated that it would like to pilot either approach. 16 authorities indicated that they no longer wished to be considered for the scheme. Summaries of expressions of interest and full bids are listed as follows:

Expressions of interest:

Universal FSMs

Liverpool
Telford and Wrekin
Knowsley
Gateshead
Durham
Wakefield
Rotherham
Blackburn
Brighton
Dudley
Newham
Isle of Wight
Kent.

Extension of FSM eligibility

Wolverhampton
Luton
Croydon
Halton
West Sussex.

Either approach

Reading
Waltham Forest
Bristol
Sandwell
Hillingdon
Sunderland
North Tyneside
Cornwall
Wigan
Barnsley
Barking
Sheffield
Haringey
Bolton
Oldham
Tameside.

Summary of full bids:

Bids to run universal FSMs

Dudley
Durham
Gateshead
Newham
Sandwell
London borough of Barking and Dagenham
Cornwall
Bristol.

Bids to run extension of FSM eligibility

Croydon
Halton
Barnsley
Wolverhampton
Sandwell
London borough of Waltham Forest.

Decided not to submit a bid

Knowsley
Liverpool
Rotherham
Telford and Wrekin
Wakefield
Luton
Haringey
Hillingdon
North Tyneside
Oldham
Reading
Sunderland
Wigan
Tameside
Blackburn and Darwen
Brighton and Hove.

Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each local authority area received three or more fixed-period exclusions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [282920]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

School Choice

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned on the effect on educational outcomes of levels of parental choice of school. [282629]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There is currently no research commissioned to specifically measure the impact of parental choice of school upon educational outcomes. We collect and publish data annually from local authorities on applications and offers of secondary school places. As these data are at local authority level and not at individual pupil level it is not possible to accurately use these data to measure impact.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools staff have been admitted to hospital as a result of violent behaviour by pupils in the last 12 months. [282441]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not held centrally by the Department. However, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) collects data on physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by people at work, reportable under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The data include injuries to staff resulting in more than three days absence from work, sustained from a physical assault.

We intend to introduce new requirements on schools to record incidents of bullying between pupils, and incidents of verbal and physical abuse against school staff. We will consult on these new requirements in the autumn. We will also consult on whether schools should also be required to report these records to their local authority, and whether they should be required to record and report these incidents by type where the incident is motivated by a particular form of prejudice i.e. as racist, homophobic bullying incidents. We will introduce the new legislation in 2010.

The table shows the provisional figures for injuries to school staff involving acts of violence reported to HSE in 2007/08.

Injuries to school staff[1] involving acts of violence[2] reported to HSE, 2007/08[3]

Occupation (SOC 2000)	*Non-fatal major injuries*	*Over-three-day injuries*	*Total*
Secondary education teaching professionals	5	49	54
Primary and nursery education teaching professionals	4	13	17
Special needs education teaching professionals	5	28	33
Teaching professionals n.e.c.[4]	12	60	72

[1] Identified by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000).
[2] Acts of violence are a reportable injury defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. Only physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by people at work are reportable under RIDDOR, physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by members of the public are not reportable under RIDDOR. There is no category in HSE's coding framework that specifically identifies the violent behaviour of school pupils. The data supplied use an agent classification from HSE's coding framework that categorises those 'persons receiving care', and this will include school pupils, but may also include social/health care clients or people in custody.
[3] Provisional.
[4] The SOC2000 handbook provides the following definition: 'Workers in this unit group perform a variety of other education and teaching functions not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 231: Teaching Professionals.'

Schools: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research he has evaluated on the relationship between levels of funding for schools and pupils' academic performance. [282681]

Mr. Coaker: In recent years, the Department has sponsored a number of externally conducted research projects in this area. They are as follows:

1. Impact of School Resources on Attainment at Key Stage 2

Helena Holmlund, Sandra McNally and Marina Viarengo

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR043&

2. Estimating the Relationship between School Resources and Pupil Attainment at Key Stage 3

Rosalind Levacic, Andrew Jenkins, Anna Vignoles, Fiona Steele and Rebecca Allen

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR679&

3. Resources and Attainment at Key Stage 4—Estimates from a Dynamic Methodology

Geoff Pugh and Jean Mangan

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR056&

4. Estimating the Relationship between School Resources and Pupil Attainment at GCSE

Andrew Jenkins, Rosalind Levacic

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR727&

5. Investigating the Effective Use of Resources in Secondary Schools

Allan Dodd, Principal Consultant Hedra plc

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR799&

6. Analysis of Secondary School Efficiency: Final Report

Professor Peter C. Smith and Dr. Andrew Street

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR788&

7. Tackling the Endogeneity Problem when Estimating the Relationship Between School Spending and Pupil Outcomes

David Mayston

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR328&

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated for enhancements to the Integrated Children's System in 2009-10; what criteria were used in determining such allocations; and how much of such funding has been passed to local authorities. [282921]

Dawn Primarolo: A capital grant of £6.4 million will be allocated to local authorities in 2009-10. This was announced by my Department on 22 June in a circular to all local authorities, which set out the practical steps the Government will take to help local authorities in improving their systems to support delivery of children's social care services. The circular described the broad terms under which this funding would be allocated. All authorities will be eligible for capital grant, and the grant will be available for use at local authorities' sole discretion for supporting any measures necessary to make improvements to current ICS implementations; making modifications to local systems consistent with the simplification of requirements; or progressing further with Phase 1C of the ICS Project in those local authorities that regard this as a priority.

Full details of individual local authorities' allocations will be set out in a funding circular. Some £3 million of this will be allocated as a fixed amount to each authority, and the balance will be allocated according to a standard formula principally related to size of local child population.

Schools: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated for the development of environmental education initiatives in schools in Tamworth constituency in 2009-10. [282426]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not allocate funding directly to support environmental education initiatives in specific schools. Environmental education is one of the key concepts for the study of geography in the new secondary curriculum and the Action Plan for Geography supports this, by providing professional development opportunities for teachers in the regions to help them embed sustainable development and environmental education in their classroom practice. We are also working with stakeholders, including the Government Office West Midlands and local authorities, to engage and support schools work towards the DCSF's Sustainable Schools strategy which aims for all schools to be sustainable by 2020. The strategy is guided by a commitment to care for the environment both locally and nationally and a national framework has been established to help schools identify areas on which they can focus to develop their sustainability practices.

Special Educational Needs: Per Capita Costs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of educating a pupil with special educational needs was in a *(a)* special school, *(b)* mainstream primary school and *(c)* mainstream secondary school in the latest period for which figures are available. [282649]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's records, based on financial data taken from local authorities' Section 52 Budget returns and the January 2008 School Census, estimate the average gross cost of educating a pupil with special educational needs (SEN) during the 2008 -09 financial year is as follows:

School type	*Average cost per pupil with special educational needs (£)*
Special school	25,810
Mainstream primary	5,500
Mainstream secondary	6,490

These estimated figures include planned expenditure on provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN.

The special school figure differs from that given on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 136W, to the hon. Member as the calculation of that figure was based only on the Individual School Budget for special schools.

The above special school figure includes other additional costs often incurred by local authorities, such as support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools, educational psychology services, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health-related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, and assessment and co-ordination. Hence the higher figure. The above figure does however exclude any allowance for SEN related transport costs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dairy Farming

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on dairy farmers in *(a)* England and *(b)* West Derbyshire of the failure of Dairy Farmers UK; and if he will make a statement. [282450]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* Dairy Farmers of Britain had 1,800 farmer members when they went into receivership on 3 June. Over 96 per cent. of their milk has found new outlets. On 17 June, 190 farmer members, including several in Derbyshire, had yet to find a new buyer, and the receiver was continuing to collect their milk.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the results of the first round of bids for funding under his Department's property-level protection grant schemes. [282019]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The results for the first round of grants to help people protect their homes against flooding were announced by the Secretary of State on 25 June.

Livestock

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many livestock farms there were in each county in each year since 1997. [281991]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of livestock holdings by county/unitary authority in England 1997 to 2008 is shown on the following tables. Livestock holdings are those holding types where livestock is the main activity and cover dairy, specialist pigs, specialist poultry, grazing livestock in both lowland and less favoured areas and mixed holdings. Holdings designated as mixed are included as these are holdings with a mixture of crops and livestock where neither activity is dominant.

Figures prior to 2000 include main holdings only; from 2000 onwards all holdings are included.

Table 1: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 1997-2002

Counties/unitary authorities	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	92	85	93	91	93	97
South Teesside	98	97	97	101	114	113
Darlington	105	105	102	101	99	89
Durham CC	1,290	1,249	1,269	1,259	1,132	1,314

Table 1: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 1997-2002

Counties/unitary authorities	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Northumberland	1,589	1,542	1,592	1,504	1,367	1,482
Tyneside	66	61	65	65	76	79
Sunderland	13	13	15	14	15	14
West Cumbria	1,643	1,619	1,626	1,621	1,085	1,507
East Cumbria	3,621	3,582	3,542	3,428	2,473	3,358
Halton and Warrington	57	56	60	60	60	61
Cheshire CC	2,513	2,470	2,461	2,461	2,463	2,498
Greater Manchester South	169	162	173	179	193	194
Greater Manchester North	544	537	521	520	553	557
Blackburn with Darwen	142	137	132	131	137	143
Blackpool	*	*	*	6	7	8
Lancashire CC	3,057	3,027	2,991	3,121	3,113	3,174
East Merseyside	36	37	34	36	37	42
Liverpool	*	*	*	*	*	5
Sefton	17	18	16	14	19	24
Wirral	41	38	41	45	50	51
Kingston upon Hull, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*
East Riding of Yorkshire	787	752	750	782	804	840
North and North East Lincolnshire	145	158	167	182	209	217
York	124	124	122	127	132	134
North Yorkshire CC	4,965	4,925	4,936	5,009	4,892	5,124
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	447	419	418	460	496	512
Sheffield	157	155	151	161	169	179
Bradford	448	442	439	462	494	510
Leeds	229	220	221	229	229	246
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	1,017	1,013	1,000	1,098	1,164	1,212
Derby	15	15	17	10	12	13
East Derbyshire	409	400	398	424	449	451
South and West Derbyshire	2,137	2,110	2,117	2,036	2,122	2,167
Nottingham	*	*	*	*	5	5
North Nottinghamshire	356	362	352	411	438	460
South Nottinghamshire	225	223	226	252	262	262
Leicester	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	1,490	1,433	1,437	1,388	1,445	1,480
Northamptonshire	888	865	833	921	926	928
Lincolnshire	944	986	930	1,047	1,143	1,235
Herefordshire, County of	2,136	2,112	2,090	2,197	1,969	2,075
Worcestershire	1,435	1,412	1,426	1,471	1,401	1,512
Warwickshire	1,147	1,139	1,137	1,167	1,143	1,150
Telford and Wrekin	107	108	111	124	136	136
Shropshire CC	3,048	3,010	3,040	3,117	3,072	3,176
Stoke-on-Trent	33	33	33	30	34	40
Staffordshire CC	3,066	3,017	2,990	3,014	3,003	3,117
Birmingham	11	10	13	12	9	10
Solihull	114	111	115	100	108	108
Coventry	28	27	30	33	33	37
Dudley and Sandwell	19	20	23	22	21	23
Walsall and Wolverhampton	25	20	23	26	23	21
Peterborough	26	29	28	27	32	42
Cambridgeshire CC	318	321	314	326	387	419
Norfolk	1,228	1,272	1,266	1,368	1,523	1,613
Suffolk	857	851	863	967	1,024	1,088
Luton	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bedfordshire CC	266	243	239	244	275	298
Hertfordshire	333	330	315	325	371	379
Southend-on-Sea	*	*	*	0	0	0
Thurrock	39	40	36	35	40	41
Essex CC	630	627	617	666	773	797
Inner London—west	0	0	0	0	*	*
Inner London—east	*	*	*	*	*	8
Outer London—east and north-east	29	27	24	28	30	33
Outer London—south	38	37	40	29	35	34
Outer London—west and north-west	37	38	36	35	36	33
Berkshire	335	349	348	326	339	348

Table 1: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 1997-2002

Counties/unitary authorities	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Milton Keynes	75	84	81	78	80	80
Buckinghamshire CC	807	811	844	793	821	823
Oxfordshire	815	819	850	858	903	926
Brighton and Hove	9	11	11	12	11	11
East Sussex CC	1,174	1,181	1,235	1,177	1,249	1,289
Surrey	681	662	697	683	750	775
West Sussex	825	804	805	774	844	868
Portsmouth	*	*	*	*	*	*
Southampton	10	11	12	9	14	13
Hampshire CC	1,187	1,212	1,258	1,265	1,382	1,438
Isle of Wight	255	262	267	251	272	275
Medway	15	18	18	19	23	25
Kent CC	1,366	1,343	1,416	1,433	1,512	1,612
Bristol, City of	7	6	7	13	17	16
N. and N.E. Somerset, South Glos.	1,145	1,123	1,133	1,180	1,232	1,253
Gloucestershire	1,910	1,881	1,894	1,939	1,779	1,984
Swindon	87	86	86	83	92	95
Wiltshire CC	1,544	1,508	1,516	1,540	1,608	1,651
Bournemouth and Poole	15	14	16	15	16	14
Dorset CC	1,892	1,865	1,865	1,919	1,962	1,966
Somerset	3,566	3,488	3,533	3,656	3,740	[illegible]
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	4,407	4,304	4,262	4,304	4,331	4,391
Plymouth	27	23	22	13	15	15
Torbay	26	23	23	21	23	23
Devon CC	8,202	8,062	8,068	7,655	7,118	7,809
England	75,210	74,204	74,442	75,169	74,095	78,608

Notes:

1. Livestock holdings are those holding types where livestock is the main activity. Holdings designated as mixed are also included, these are holdings with a mixture of crops and livestock where neither activity is dominant.
2. * denotes data that have been suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual holdings.
3. Data for 1997 are for main holdings only. From 2000 onwards all holdings are included.

Source:

June Agriculture Survey

Table 2: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 2003 to 2008

Counties/unitary authorities	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	96	101	100	94	84	77
South Teesside	114	121	119	109	108	102
Darlington	89	96	100	92	93	89
Durham CC	1,321	1,317	1,332	1,305	1,277	1,294
Northumberland	1,481	1,469	1,498	1,499	1,479	1,458
Tyneside	75	80	89	78	89	81
Sunderland	13	14	18	13	20	19
West Cumbria	1,584	1,589	1,586	1,623	1,541	1,559
East Cumbria	3,347	3,304	3,305	3,282	3,277	3,278
Halton and Warrington	69	74	77	67	55	56
Cheshire CC	2,473	2,496	2,481	2,420	2,285	2,272
Greater Manchester South	197	196	192	180	172	181
Greater Manchester North	554	555	559	553	485	494
Blackburn with Darwen	141	140	139	145	133	136
Blackpool	8	9	10	8	7	8
Lancashire CC	3,129	3,125	3,156	3,061	2,969	3,012
East Merseyside	40	40	45	35	38	38
Liverpool	*	*	5	*	5	5
Sefton	24	23	25	24	17	19
Wirral	51	52	51	48	41	41
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*
East Riding of Yorkshire	848	880	891	834	835	837
North And North East Lincolnshire	212	218	220	209	212	212
York	134	128	[illegible]	124	127	127
North Yorkshire CC	5,129	5,161	5,143	5,052	4,975	4,981
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	516	527	524	477	444	455
Sheffield	183	189	197	188	173	170
Bradford	516	523	526	510	492	499
Leeds	251	252	247	229	213	217
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	1,214	1,220	1,228	1,177	1,110	1,137

Table 2: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 2003 to 2008

Counties/unitary authorities	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Derby	15	14	14	18	10	14
East Derbyshire	451	448	453	415	417	409
South and West Derbyshire	2,176	2,192	2,216	2,197	2,096	2,104
Nottingham	6	8	9	7	•	•
North Nottinghamshire	440	461	486	460	453	446
South Nottinghamshire	254	247	257	250	233	228
Leicester	•	•	6	•	•	•
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	1,476	1,460	1,478	1,406	1,333	1,331
Northamptonshire	928	927	933	896	891	892
Lincolnshire	1,231	1,299	1,363	1,294	1,289	1,303
Herefordshire, County of	2,099	2,127	2,120	2,107	2,027	2,018
Worcestershire	1,507	1,526	1,528	1,450	1,374	1,381
Warwickshire	1,141	1,142	1,149	1,098	1,075	1,094
Telford and Wrekin	139	145	147	150	131	136
Shropshire CC	3,149	3,165	3,204	3,117	3,027	2,996
Stoke-on-Trent	38	42	41	50	35	39
Staffordshire CC	3,086	3,077	3,066	2,948	2,795	2,801
Birmingham	9	10	11	11	9	10
Solihull	103	104	104	98	91	95
Coventry	36	39	38	40	32	29
Dudley and Sandwell	27	31	32	21	21	21
Walsall and Wolverhampton	20	19	19	17	19	17
Peterborough	44	46	52	41	36	36
Cambridgeshire CC	432	468	495	445	435	435
Norfolk	1,635	1,732	1,821	1,660	1,637	1,629
Suffolk	1,112	1,157	1,193	1,104	1,061	1,087
Luton	•	•	5	•	•	•
Bedfordshire CC	307	326	333	283	277	279
Hertfordshire	380	383	403	369	328	329
Southend-on-Sea	•	•	•	•	•	•
Thurrock	42	42	40	42	33	35
Essex CC	818	846	878	765	738	769
Inner London—west	•	5	6	5	•	•
Inner London—east	8	8	9	8	8	8
Outer London—east and north-east	33	36	34	27	29	29
Outer London—south	35	34	34	26	28	27
Outer London—west and north-west	36	40	44	39	34	34
Berkshire	351	376	406	359	335	339
Milton Keynes	84	81	79	79	69	67
Buckinghamshire CC	839	863	868	810	780	818
Oxfordshire	911	905	924	913	843	854
Brighton and Hove	11	11	11	11	8	8
East Sussex CC	1304	1330	1331	1292	1246	1282
Surrey	778	775	797	720	666	656
West Sussex	879	875	902	873	839	846
Portsmouth	•	•	•	•	•	•
Southampton	13	13	14	11	9	10
Hampshire CC	1,498	1,546	1,574	1,485	1,429	1,457
Isle of Wight	287	289	287	275	261	265
Medway	30	35	37	32	29	32
Kent CC	1,666	1,727	1,764	1,684	1,614	1,655
Bristol, City of	20	24	24	24	26	26
N. and N.E. Somerset, South Glos	1,246	1,256	1,258	1,214	1,146	1,142
Gloucestershire	1,987	1,987	2,028	1,945	1,893	1,874
Swindon	93	89	81	81	64	63
Wiltshire CC	1,644	1,633	1,647	1,593	1,515	1,516
Bournemouth and Poole	16	17	19	16	15	13
Dorset CC	1,979	1,985	1,990	1,949	1,863	1,868
Somerset	3,835	3,813	3,840	3,757	3,660	3,692
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	4,386	4,367	4,358	4,255	3,912	3,923
Plymouth	15	19	20	20	14	15
Torbay	23	25	28	26	28	32

Table 2: Number of holdings where livestock is the predominant activity 2003 to 2008

Counties/unitary authorities	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Devon CC	7,787	7,773	7,854	7,628	7,334	7,285
England	78,724	79,339	80,166	77,370	74,372	74,673

Notes:
1. Livestock holdings are those holding types where livestock is the main activity. Holdings designated as mixed are also included. these are holdings with a mixture of crops and livestock where neither activity is dominant.
2. * denotes data that have been suppressed to protect the confidentiality of individual holdings.
Source:
June Agriculture Survey

National Parks: Wildlife

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the effect of the designation of an area as a National Park on the level of wildlife in that area. [282803]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No comprehensive assessment has been made of the effect of the designation of an area as a National Park on the level of wildlife.

Pesticides Safety Directorate

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Pesticides Safety Directorate in each of the last five years. [282141]

Dan Norris: In the last four financial years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 the total amount paid to Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) staff in bonuses was as follows:

				£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
(a) Directors[1]	15,967	20,467	27,545	12,728
(b) Senior Managers[2]	10,951	3,413	4,866	10,341
(c) Specialist and delivery managers[3]	33,218	51,045	56,615	27,128
(d) Executive support and admin staff[4]	9,293	9,643	7,027	2,666
Total	69,429	84,568	96,053	52,863

[1] Defined here as staff at senior civil service or grade 6 level.
[2] Defined here as staff at grade 7 level (includes managers in policy, science, technical and administrative areas).
[3] Defined here as all staff in grades executive/scientific officer to senior executive/scientific officer.
[4] Defined here as all staff in grades administrative officer and administrative assistant.
Notes:
1. Data for the period 2004-05 are not available due to systems changes.
2. PSD transferred to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 1 April 2008, and merged with other HSE teams to form the Chemicals Regulation Directorate on 1 April 2009.

Veterinary Medicines Agency: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Veterinary Medicines Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [282139]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate spent the following amount on consultants in each of the last five years.

	£
2004-05	240,000
2005-06	184,000
2006-07	215,000
2007-08	259,000
2008-09	256,000.

These consultants were engaged to provide additional IT support for the development and maintenance of IT systems and additional scientific expertise to ensure that the assessment of applications for marketing authorisations is completed within the target time scales.

Water: National Security

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the publication of the Basingstoke Water Cycle report of the interpretation of the national security circular in relation to water assets. [282804]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This Department provides guidance to water asset owners and operators on a range of security issues, including the release of information that may impact on the physical security of those assets and on national security. Guidance is generally delivered in the form of thematic Advice Notes issued under the provisions of the Security and Emergency Measures Direction 1998. That guidance is developed in conjunction with the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure.

In some instances, the owner or operator of a water asset may decide, on the basis of the guidance, that information should be withheld from publication on grounds of national security. We understand that in the case of the Basingstoke Water Cycle report, the water asset owner has referred to our guidance in requesting that certain information be withheld from wider public circulation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been made in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency in each of the last five years. [282566]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest data published indicate that over 30,000 ABCs have been made between October 2003 and September 2007, with over 2,958 issued in Greater London during the same period. Currently, data on the number of ABCs issued are not available below regional level.

Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since the inception of such orders; [282428]

(2) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have resulted in a criminal conviction in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since the inception of such orders. [282429]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available) and are not compiled below criminal justice system (CJS) area level. Information collected centrally on the number of breaches of ASBOs only counts those instances where the breach of the ASBO was proven in court.

The number of occasions in each year on which ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached in the Staffordshire and the West Midlands CJS areas is shown in the following table.

Number of occasions in the Staffordshire and the West Midlands criminal justice system areas[1] where persons were proven in court to have breached their antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006

CJS area	*2000-02[2]*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006*
Staffordshire	10	19	40	62	68	199
West Midlands	112	137	344	488	408	1,489

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of breach.

[2] From 1 June 2000.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Asylum

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted on the social effects of the *(a)* distribution of and *(b)* number of unsupported refused asylum seekers without the right to work; and if he will make a statement. [281571]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not conducted such research. It is not our policy to allow asylum seekers to work because we believe that managed migration is a valuable source of skills and labour to the British economy and there are recognised routes into the UK for those seeking to work.

Asylum: Bahrain

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1459W, on asylum: Bahrain, which sources of evidence the UK Border Agency used in making decisions on asylum applications from Bahraini citizens in the last five years. [279642]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency uses a variety of published and reputable sources of information in making decisions. I cannot list all those which may have been referred to by the agency's decision-makers over the past five years, but the body of information includes reports from various Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, UNHCR, the annual US Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices and the UK Government's own agencies.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272127]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not contract directly for these inspections but procures them as part of building maintenance services through wider Facilities Management or operational service contractors. Our contractors plan to carry out these inspections as soon as possible after their engineers have become appropriately qualified to do so.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272186]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Inspections have been planned by our building facilities management service providers around the availability of appropriately trained engineers able to undertake the task.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280919]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides a breakdown for carbon dioxide emissions from key offices in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. Full-time equivalent figures for these offices are not available.

Carbon dioxide emissions from key offices

	Tonnes
2006-07	38,889
2007-08	40,353

Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies are required to report performance data on their carbon emissions for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281044]

Mr. Woolas: The data on operational road travel, as published in the Sustainable Development in Government reports 2006-07 and 2007-08, are as follows:

		Tonnes of CO_2
	Operational road travel emissions	*Emissions per FTE*
2006-07	9,632	0.13
2007-08	6,360	0.34

Due to the machinery of government changes, resulting in the transfer of staff from the Home Office to Ministry of Justice, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons between these years.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281045]

Mr. Woolas: The data on air travel are as follows:

		Tonnes of CO_2
	Air travel emissions	*Emissions per FTE*
2006-07	1,800	0.025
2007-08	2,206	0.118

These data cover some business areas that are now part of Ministry of Justice. The Home Office off-sets carbon dioxide emissions from official air travel through the Government Carbon off-setting scheme.

Departmental Correspondence

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' Parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280462]

Mr. Woolas: I am happy to respond to the question, especially given our diligence on this matter.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

Departmental Electricity

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280921]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides a breakdown for what percentage of renewable energy was consumed in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 by the Department, as previously reported:

Electricity derived from renewable sources

	Percentage
2006-07	29.6
2007-08	66

The data cover some business areas that are now part of Ministry of Justice.

Central Government Departments and their executive agencies are required to report performance data on their energy consumption for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Departmental Energy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280920]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides a breakdown for how much energy was consumed at key offices in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. Full-time equivalent figures are not available.

	Energy (kWh)
2006-07	1,525,325,482
2007-08	99,866,124

Each of the reported years includes a different mix of buildings some of which are now part of the Ministry of Justice. This makes direct comparisons difficult.

Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies are required to report performance data on their energy consumption for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275343]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office policy is that all printer and copier paper purchased is from recycled sources. Overall for the last 12 months, for the core Home Office and the UK Border Agency, the proportions are given in the following table:

Purchasing classification	*Proportion (percentage)*
Paper products one (April 2008 to March 2009)	46
General stationery[1] (June 2008 to April 2009	28
Computer consumables[1] (June 2008 to January 2009)	0

[1] The Department's purchasing classification of paper products includes recycled copier paper and certain non-paper products from the same supplier. General stationery and computer consumables also include non-paper products such as toner cartridges.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281043]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides a breakdown for waste arisings from our key buildings in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. Full-time equivalent figures for these buildings are not available.

	Waste arisings (tonnes)[1]
2006-07	16,985
2007-08	2,989

[1] Taken from Sustainable Development in Government Report.

Note:

Data for 2006-07 include Prison Service.

Departmental Water

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280918]

Mr. Woolas: The estimated data for key buildings are set out in the table. Full-time equivalent figures for these buildings are not available.

These are the data supplied for the annual Sustainable Development in Government questionnaire in each of the years as requested at that time.

	Water consumption (M^3)
2005-06 (excludes Prison Service)	246,474
2006-07 (includes Prison Service)	8,380,201

Detainees: Children

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the UK's level of compliance with the standards for the detention of children established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in respect of immigration removal centres. [281227]

Mr. Woolas: Detention of children takes place because of the desire not to separate children from parents who have flagrantly abused the immigration laws. The detention of children under Immigration Act powers complies with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A statutory Code of Practice for Keeping Children Safe from Harm was introduced in January and sets out the key principles governing how the Agency treats children, especially in detention. The Code is due to be replaced by a statutory duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill.

Educational Accreditation Bodies

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts his Department has with educational accreditation bodies. [278544]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has no contracts with educational accreditation bodies.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations his Department has received from the English Language Training sector regarding visa regulations. [280744]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA has recently received the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay addressed to myself, enclosing correspondence from one of the Member's constituents who runs an English language school, and expressing concerns about the impact of the new student visa arrangements upon the business of language schools in the Torbay area and on the UK economy. I will be replying to that letter in the near future.

UKBA has received no other recent representations from the English language education sector on visa arrangements, aside from queries about the operation of the new system from individual providers. This sector was fully consulted during the development of the proposals which have led to the introduction of the PBS Tier 4 immigration provisions for students, and the student visitor provisions and is represented at the regular meetings of UKBA's Joint Education Taskforce (JET), where all aspects of the provisions continue to be discussed.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms there are to ensure the standardisation between offices of procedures for the processing of applications for visas for leave to remain in the UK. [281430]

Mr. Woolas: Within UKBA standard application procedures apply for both its in country and out of country operations. It has published service standards for all types of applications. These standards indicate the expected time taken to process an application by type and apply across all locations.

Service standards are published on the UKBA website.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation his Department carried out on proposals affecting student visas before the recent changes to the regulations were made. [280743]

Mr. Woolas: Tier 4, the student tier of the Points Based System (PBS), was introduced on 31 March 2009 and was the culmination of the extensive changes to the immigration system first announced in 2004. Before introducing these changes, we consulted widely and in July 2005 published a consultation document: "Selective Admission: Making Migration Work for Britain"; this consultation ran for an extended period until November 2005.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector. The JET was also established in 2005 and comprises senior figures and representative bodies from all parts of the education sector and it and its sub-groups continue to meet on a regular basis. In July 2008 we published "Students under the Points Based System—(Tier 4) Statement of Intent". While this was not a further consultation, we welcomed comments from stakeholders affected by the changes proposed which were incorporated where appropriate. Both documents are available in the House Library.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed to conduct sponsor inspections under the Tier 4 regulations on immigration; and [illegible] training has been provided by his Department [illegible]t-holders. [281394]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency currently employs 125 staff nationally to conduct visits to sponsors and prospective sponsors under the Points Based System which includes Tier 4.

All visiting staff receive ongoing training and development on and off the job to enable them to carry out their duties in a professional and effective manner.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether guidance issued by his Department on Tier 4 immigration regulations is publicly available. [281596]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Policy guidance on Tier 4 policy, which expands on the immigration rules provides the evidential requirements a migrant must meet is published, as is the Points Based Sponsor guidance which provides the evidential requirements a sponsor must meet. These documents are on the UK Border Agency website.

The Tier 4 caseworking instructions, which provide step by step process instructions to assessing officers as to how to physically consider an application, are currently being considered for publication.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether student visa applications made before 31 March 2009 are determined in accordance with the immigration rules in force at that time. [281597]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Yes. Student visa applications submitted prior to 31 March 2009 are determined under the immigration rules in force at that time.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on visa application rates of the requirement under the Tier 4 rules on immigration for certified translations of all documents. [281598]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The requirement for certified translations of all documents does not appear so far to have had a significant effect on application rates. However, as Tier 4 of the Points Based System was only introduced on 31 March 2009, it is too early to draw any definitive conclusions.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason students under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system may not undertake a paid or unpaid work experience or internship as part of their course of study. [282215]

Mr. Woolas: Students under Tier 4 of the Points Based System may undertake a work placement as part of their course, as long as it is an assessed part of the course and the work placement does not equate to more than 50 per cent. of the length of the course in the United Kingdom. In addition, students can undertake a work placement where their course includes a legal (statutory) requirement for this.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the new online system for the registration of overseas students to be in operation. [282233]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The next stage of the online system for the registration of overseas students will be launched in autumn 2009. The roll-out of the new system will be complete by the end of March 2010.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the integration of non-EU domiciled students of requiring academic institutions to register their attendance. [282234]

Mr. Woolas: All academic institutions have their own procedures in place to be able to monitor their students' attendance both to ensure their continued progress on a course but also to fulfil their duty of care. The reporting requirements placed on institutions as part of their sponsor duties under Tier 4 are sufficiently robust to ensure that students who are no longer attending are reported to the UK Border Agency, while also being sufficiently flexible to allow for the different ways in which institutions monitor student attendance.

Entry Clearances: Sri Lanka

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* visas and *(b)* leave to remain from Sri Lankan nationals his Department has under consideration. [279430]

Mr. Woolas: There are 1,957 Sri Lankan nationals who are currently awaiting a decision on their applications for Leave to Remain.

During May 2009, we received 3,424 visa applications from Sri Lankan nationals.

Immigration

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK remained to be processed seven years or more after the date of application at the end of 2008. [247227]

Mr. Woolas: At the end of 2008 there were 13 applications that remain to be processed seven or more years after the date of application.

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which countries the UK Border Agency operates points of entry campaigns explaining UK immigration and asylum policy. [280812]

Mr. Woolas: Detailed guidance on the requirements to be met by foreign nationals who wish to enter the UK is available from all UK Border Agency Visa Application Centres and Visa Sections overseas, and on central and local websites. Call centres are also in operation in many locations.

Immigration Controls: Voluntary Work

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality have been refused entry to the UK at ports and airports on the grounds that they intended to carry out voluntary work during their stay since the Tier 5 volunteer worker category of the points-based immigration system was introduced. [282176]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* It is not possible to provide definitive figures on the number or nationality of those refused entry on the grounds that they intended to carry out voluntary work during their stay. This information can be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether individuals deported by the UK Border Agency are accompanied by officials on their removal from the UK. [280810]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency staff do not accompany individuals removed or deported on their departure from the UK. However, the Agency uses contractors to facilitate overseas removal who do, from time to time, accompany individuals deported from the UK.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the visa enquiry office of the Islamabad consulate plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 24 April 2009, on his constituent Mr U. Ma[redacted]. [279825]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency (Visa Services) replied to the hon. Member on 11 June 2009.

Migration

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which of the recommendations relating to migration made by the Home Affairs Committee between 2005 and 2007 have been implemented by his Department; how many such recommendations he plans to implement; and what recent steps he has taken to implement such recommendations; [269301]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 269301, tabled on 1 April 2009, on implementation of recommendations of the Home Affairs Committee relating to migration. [278593]

Mr. Woolas: In October 2007 the Home Office provided the Home Affairs Select Committee with a progress report on implementing the accepted recommendations in the report HC775. The Government responded to the Committee's report on Justice and Home Affairs Issues at European Union Level on (HC76-I) on 11 October 2007.

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how applications for regulation have been received by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner in each year from 2001. [281419]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is an Executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office, and receives and deals with applications from advisers. The number of applications received are as follows:

	Number of initial applications received[1]
2001-02	785
2002-03	779
2003-04	271
2004-05	329
2005-06	255
2006-07	255
2007-08	188
2008-09	227

[1] Applications are made by an organisation rather than an individual adviser.

Overseas Students

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on the number of educational establishments which *(a)* accepted non-EU students, *(b)* were inspected and *(c)* passed inspection in 2007. [274433]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The Home Office does not hold this information.

Since the launch of tier 4 of the PBS on 31 March 2009, educational establishments wishing to bring non-EEA national students to the UK are required to hold a sponsor licence, which can only be obtained by establishments that are either publicly funded and subject to the system of public inspections and audits, or private institutions that are accredited by a UK Border Agency-approved accreditation body. Around 1,500 institutions are currently registered to bring students to the UK. We estimated that around 4,000 institutions were active in bringing non-EEA students to the UK prior to the introduction of tier 4 of the points-based system.

Overseas Visitors: Jordan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Jordanian nationals visited the UK in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [282302]

Mr. Woolas: The latest available statistics on the number of Jordanian nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors are for 2007. These are published in table 2.3 of the Home Office publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007". This and future publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The statistics are based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in August 2009.

Police: Greater London

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which boroughs in London the number of police officers will be reduced in the next 12 months as a result of the application of the Metropolitan Police resource allocation formula; and if he will make a statement. [281799]

Mr. Hanson: The allocation of resources by the Metropolitan Police Service to the London borough operational command units is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA).

I understand that the resource allocation formula used by the MPS and the MPA to allocate resources to boroughs is kept under review.

Public Order Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* abandoned vehicles, *(b)* animal problems, *(c)* hoax calls to emergency services, *(d)* malicious communications, *(e)* noise, *(f)* rowdy or nuisance behaviour by neighbours, *(g)* rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour in public, *(h)* street drinking, *(i)* substance misuse, *(j)* trespass, *(k)* inappropriate use or sale of fireworks, *(l)* begging or vagrancy and *(m)* hate incidents, as defined by the National Incident Category List, were recorded by each police force in 2007-08. [258634]

Alan Johnson: The data requested are shown in the tables. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

As part of the reviews of the burdens the Home Office places on police forces, the National Incident Category List has been simplified for 2009, with a 33 per cent., reduction in complexity, leading to a significant decrease in the data demand placed on forces.

2007-08

	Abandoned vehicles (not stolen or causing an obstruction)	Animal problems	Hoax calls to emergency services	Malicious communications	Noise	Rowdy/ nuisance neighbours	Rowdy/ nuisance - rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour[1]
F01 Avon and Somerset	2,760	3,088	4,607	3,633	2,137	5,469	63,961
F02 Bedfordshire	3,491	563	1,116	1,318	243	3,041	23,117
F03 Cambridgeshire	3,088	39	764	3,336	1,880	4,144	35,360
F04 Cheshire	2,767	1,366	1,070	3,598	338	4,836	34,770
F05 City of London	9	8	4	24	180	33	1,402
F06 Cleveland	2,087	1,451	2,343	4,080	153	3,751	40,588

2007-08

	Abandoned vehicles (not stolen or causing an obstruction)	Animal problems	Hoax calls to emergency services	Malicious communications	Noise	Rowdy/ nuisance neighbours	Rowdy/ nuisance— rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour
F07 Cumbria	478	960	881	2,289	693	4,136	30,267
F08 Derbyshire	3,947	1,465	1,659	2,590	1,338	5,888	40,630
F09 Devon and Cornwall	2,713	2,250	3,657	6,391	470	8,085	70,099
F10 Dorset	2,500	615	536	2,273	1,005	3,692	29,823
F11 Durham	88	1,717	1,717	4,032	2,050	3,166	33,829
F12 Dyfed Powys	451	1,363	980	2,288	2,035	3,342	18,376
F13 Essex	4,005	1,476	4,180	3,080	1,456	5,215	61,490
F14 Gloucestershire	1,290	998	3,020	2,436	1,380	2,543	20,839
F15 Greater Manchester	17,970	1,527	8,968	11,128	788	19,780	152,683
F16 Gwent	1,117	1,225	1,779	4,448	1,097	5,418	42,876
F17 Hampshire	4,796	1,080	1,738	7,494	4,079	11,326	88,138
F18 Hertfordshire	6,873	821	5,660	5,363	4,062	3,889	43,746
F19 Humberside	2,500	954	1,117	3,838	239	5,394	34,083
F20 Kent	1,476	664	1,758	6,539	2,052	8,074	46,235
F21 Lancashire	4,622	1,300	5,080	10,030	1,304	9,438	116,639
F22 Leicestershire	1,994	788	3,827	1,549	589	2,748	38,660
F23 Lincolnshire	1,372	578	826	2,884	866	2,079	25,180
F24 Merseyside	1,060	2,367	3,513	4,281	1,896	9,117	71,665
F25 Metropolitan Police	15,294	15,625	963	16,276	10,303	19,449	215,737
F26 Norfolk	3,645	1,305	2,464	4,916	1,433	3,363	36,385
F27 Northamptonshire	3,120	798	1,682	3,054	841	1,922	40,229
F28 Northumbria	6,087	2,433	3,461	9,062	797	13,217	106,925
F29 North Wales	1,609	96	1,989	1,789	1,931	2,965	34,948
F30 North Yorkshire	1,930	1,739	462	4,065	315	3,032	31,889
F31 Nottinghamshire	4,551	1,671	10,612	3,990	1,640	1,498	53,096
F32 South Wales	8,080	2,716	2,413	4,039	959	7,425	66,964
F33 South Yorkshire	4,771	4,450	2,261	5,761	2,387	4,769	82,172
F34 Staffordshire	1,577	480	230	1,487	1,237	4,767	44,148
F35 Suffolk	2,130	963	1,498	3,476	630	2,835	28,292
F36 Surrey	5,124	1,280	9,636	1,496	[illegible]	4,793	36,253
F37 Sussex	5,415	2,867	12,476	5,417	1,023	5,660	57,243
F38 Thames Valley	3,066	1,253	2,698	1,220	1,830	8,586	54,180
F39 Warwickshire	2,146	193	1,012	2,308	817	2,305	16,689
F40 West Mercia	1,484	1,560	1,687	5,986	1,536	7,287	53,666
F41 West Midlands	3,635	1,528	17,983	6,652	6,509	13,781	97,071
F42 West Yorkshire	7,080	2,630	5,829	7,462	2,078	8,090	96,885
F43 Wiltshire	1,640	292	914	2,277	495	1,885	23,071

	Street drinking	Substance misuse	Trespass	Inappropriate use/ sale/possession of fireworks	Begging/ vagrancy	Total of hate/ discrimination qualifiers
F01 Avon and Somerset	584	271	659	1,158	726	[illegible]
F02 Bedfordshire	175	92	185	236	239	245
F03 Cambridgeshire	505	14	76	235	290	496
F04 Cheshire	218	23	254	367	230	676
F05 City of London	17	0	4	7	254	66
F06 Cleveland	675	83	307	382	598	415
F07 Cumbria	983	53	661	486	144	136
F08 Derbyshire	667	25	130	491	164	787
F09 Devon and Cornwall	1,196	26	372	553	508	635
F10 Dorset	536	92	467	588	1,301	576
F11 Durham	2,085	76	534	335	33	382
F12 Dyfed Powys	1,049	66	253	150	125	239
F13 Essex	205	140	487	1,586	75	2,535
F14 Gloucestershire	290	92	289	366	153	286
F15 Greater Manchester	5,414	30	364	2,170	1,307	5,576
F16 Gwent	1,469	238	648	556	119	2,037
F17 Hampshire	1,850	229	980	576	651	2,106
F18 Hertfordshire	960	266	136	628	263	961
F19 Humberside	629	20	489	698	260	567

	Street drinking	Substance misuse	Trespass	Inappropriate use/sale/possession of fireworks	Begging/vagrancy	Total of hate/discrimination qualifiers[2]
F20 Kent	191	14	297	787	655	1,417
F21 Lancashire	1,971	67	688	1,678	803	2,334
F22 Leicestershire	460	124	189	904	388	713
F23 Lincolnshire	396	104	230	312	201	305
F24 Merseyside	1,864	133	166	1,349	759	5,141
F25 Metropolitan Police	22,695	34,077	4,310	6,889	7,995	4,362
F26 Norfolk	359	80	182	268	238	465
F27 Northamptonshire	569	6	84	446	142	1,186
F28 Northumbria	3,100	712	234	1,238	437	1,383
F29 North Wales	330	0	96	266	84	433
F30 North Yorkshire	1,437	30	185	318	257	221
F31 Nottinghamshire	877	55	188	844	223	1,666
F32 South Wales	1,403	947	485	615	984	633
F33 South Yorkshire	1,468	676	242	1,226	375	3,087
F34 Staffordshire	1,386	246	485	529	94	280
F35 Suffolk	542	170	374	111	174	413
F36 Surrey	463	65	143	402	218	1,797
F37 Sussex	2,342	183	255	429	182	235
F38 Thames Valley	1,728	405	455	301	432	441
F39 Warwickshire	636	27	316	109	51	572
F40 West Mercia	492	89	732	956	304	974
F41 West Midlands	2,169	901	1,027	1,706	1,327	2,820
F42 West Yorkshire	94	317	382	1,115	424	2,171
F43 Wiltshire	196	87	111	214	277	6,788

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[1] In respect of 'rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour in public', the National Incident Category List (NICL) definition does not make direct reference to incidents in public. The data supplied are for all incidents recorded under this category and will include a number that have occurred other than in public.

[2] In respect of 'hate incidents', NICL specifies that incidents with certain hate motivational characteristics, as set down by Association of Chief Police Officers policy, should be identified. The data supplied are those identified by forces within that policy. In all cases these incidents will have been recorded under a main category type (for example antisocial behaviour) and qualified as "hate". This will include a number of incidents that have resulted in the recording of a notifiable crime but will not include all notifiable crimes recorded as aggravated by a hate factor.

[3] No data.

Terrorism

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on terrorism, what follow-up action on protective security is necessary after Project Argus events. [281882]

Alan Johnson: Project Argus events are not designed to provide bespoke advice on protective security for individual businesses but follow-up action may include providing advice on specific protective security issues raised by businesses.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on terrorism, whether any central record is kept of the organisations which have participated in Project Argus training. [281883]

Alan Johnson: While organisations that have attended Project Argus events are recorded and held locally by the police counter-terrorism security advisers (CTSAs), there is no central record.

Travel Restrictions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 321W, on travel restrictions, with which foreign governments his officials have discussed the Government's policy on exclusion since 5 May 2009. [281931]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]*: The Government of the United States of America.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each UK Border Agency office in each of the last five years. [280611]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency staff whose records are held within the central computerised personnel system are not broken down into the specific categories *(a)* to *(d)*. It is not possible to identify staff numbers against these categories and to break them down into each UK Border Agency office over five years, except at disproportionate cost.

The best estimate of UK Border Agency staff into the categories listed in the question is given in the following table:

Category	1 January 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March 2008	Workforce 2009[1]
(a) Directors[2]	5	10	10	14	13

Category	*1 January 2005*	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*	*31 March 2008*	*Workforce 2009*[1]
(b) Senior Managers[3]	28	38	44	45	42
(c) Specialist and delivery managers	15,337	17,155	18,784	18,095	17,639
(d) executive support and administration staff[4]					
Total active FTE[5]	15,370	17,203	18,838	18,154	17,692
Total paid FTE[6]	—	—	—	—	17,826

[1] 31 May 2009 Rounded FTE. Figure provided excludes former HMRC and UKVisas workers joining UKBA in machinery of Government transfer.
[2] SCS payband 2 and 3.
[3] SCS payband 1.
[4] Grades AA to Grade 6. We do not distinguish 'specialist and delivery managers' across UK Border Agency staff.
[5] Internal UKBA metric excludes some paid staff as below, source ADELPHI.
[6] ONS metric includes paid maternity leave, paid career breaks, source Dataview.

Vetting

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent representations his Department has received on *(a)* the time taken to process Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and *(b)* the effect of delays in CRB checks on the recruitment of staff in the health and social care sector; [280488]

(2) how long it took on average to process each type of Criminal Records Bureau check in each of the last four quarters. [280497]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) receives inquiries from applicants, employers and others acting on their behalf across all employment and voluntary sectors on a regular basis.

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB. Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any force's performance can be affected by a number of factors, including the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to non-UK nationals in each quarter since 1 January 2007. [281116]

Mr. Woolas: The number of work permit applications approved for non-UK nationals in each quarter for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 is shown in the following table:

		Number
Q1	2007	35,510
Q2	2007	33,160
Q3	2007	34,010
Q4	2007	28,380
Q1	2008	28,260
Q2	2008	32,335
Q3	2008	38,460
Q4	2008	24,655
Total	—	254,765

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on work permits, how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intra-company transfer in respect of non-UK nationals were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each quarter since January 2004. [281117]

Mr. Woolas: The number of work permit applications made and approved for Intra-Company Transfers in each quarter since January 2004 is shown in the following table:

Work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for each quarter during the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
2004					
Applications made	8,235	8,005	9,355	8,050	33,645

Work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for each quarter during the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Applications approved	8,060	7,765	9,140	7,805	32,770
2005					
Applications made	8,460	8,845	8,900	8,475	34,680
Applications approved	8,250	8,595	8,610	8,290	33,745
2006					
Applications made	10,860	10,745	11,200	11,145	43,950
Applications approved	10,625	10,520	10,960	10,945	43,050
2007					
Applications made	12,865	12,960	12,945	11,460	50,230
Applications approved	12,590	12,685	12,440	11,020	48,735
2008					
Applications made	12,375	13,385	14,565	9,385	49,710
Applications approved	11,870	12,930	14,135	9,075	48,010

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question 269160, tabled on 1 April 2009, on tourist visas. [278605]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 938W.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer question 272236, tabled on 27 April 2009, on highly-skilled migrants. [281259]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 456W.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, where the unborn child had a cleft *(a)* palate and *(b)* lip, broken down by (i) grounds for abortion, (ii) length of gestation and (iii) health authority in 2008. [282222]

Gillian Merron: There were less than 10 abortions in 2008 with a cleft lip and palate. Data cannot be broken down by gestation or health authority for confidentiality reasons in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005). All abortions were performed under Section l(l)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967, that there is substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

For years 2006, 2007 and 2008, some of the principal medical conditions for abortions performed under Section l(l)(d) were suppressed as the totals for each single year were too small to release. In the three years 2006-08, there were also less than 10 cases with a principal medical condition of the congenital malformation cleft lip and/or cleft palate.

Carers: Advisory Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to the Carers Direct helpline have *(a)* resulted in the allocation to a social worker of a new case and *(b)* required an urgent case assessment by a social worker since the helpline was established. [282465]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the use of naloxone in the treatment of opiate addicts; and if he will make a statement; [282170]

(2) what his policy is on the provision of naloxone to carers of opiate addicts to administer in cases of overdose. [282172]

Gillian Merron: Advice on the use of naloxone in the treatment of drug addiction is set out in "Drug Misuse and Dependence: Guidelines on Clinical Management" (2007)

www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/clinical_guidelines_2007.pdf

All drug treatment services are expected to work within these guidelines. The guidance notes that all services working with drug misusers should have an emergency protocol in place to cover the management of drug overdoses. This should include, as well as other measures, protocols for the emergency administration of naloxone.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse is running pilots in take-home naloxone in 16 sites in England. The pilot projects will make naloxone available to family members and carers, and train them in its use and other life saving measures. They will also encourage drug users to think about reducing risk-taking.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with NHS bodies on the supply of and demand for naloxone; and if he will make a statement. [282171]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Naloxone injection of different strengths is available in ampoules and pre-filled syringes. The national health service has alerted NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) that there are problems affecting the supply of one presentation of naloxone hydrochloride injection in pre-filled syringes. Stocks are limited and supply is being carefully managed by the company. These syringes are available only from one source and so it is not possible to obtain alternative supplies of this presentation.

NHS PASA routinely monitors the availability of naloxone injection and is not aware of any other supply problems with this product.

East of England: Health Services

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the Suffolk Primary Care Trust was informed of the intention of the East Anglian Strategic Health Authority to cease the current procedures of pre-hospital thrombolysis; [282136]

(2) what reasons no public consultation took place on the decision of the East of England Health Authority to withdraw emergency heart services from Ipswich Hospital. [282134]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the East of England Strategic Health Authority. We understand that the proposal to create heart attack centres in the east of England were subject to public consultation on as part of Towards the best, together from 6 May 2008 to 4 August 2008. These proposals in Towards the best, together were put forward by clinicians working in the national health service in the east of England region, and involved eight clinical work-streams involving around 200 clinicians (with representatives from every NHS organisation in the region), stakeholders, and patients in drawing up the proposals. The proposals were the result of taking the best clinical evidence and applying it to provide the best health service for the people of the east of England.

The consultation directly engaged more than 6,000 people and the public gave 90 per cent. approval to create four specialist heart attack centres. Staff saw them as the one of the most important changes to acute services in the vision, second only to a guaranteed future for all acute trusts, including Ipswich.

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the east of England scrutinised the proposals made as part of Towards the best, together consultation. Following Towards the best, together consultation, the NHS discussed with the OSC's the plans for implementing Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) across the region and it was agreed that further consultation was not required as the changes were in line with those already consulted on in Towards the best, together.

The decision on the four specialist centres to deliver PPCI in the east of England was made by the East of England Specialised Commissioning Group. The East of England Specialised Commissioning Group is a committee comprising representatives of all of the 14 primary care trusts (PCTs) in the east of England, including Suffolk PCT, and is a sub-committee of their Boards.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the East of England Strategic Health Authority has been informed of the requirements on them to assess the carbon impact of their service decisions; what mechanism there is to monitor the authority's compliance with those requirements; and if he will make a statement; [282133]

(2) what estimate has been made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of changes in *(a)* the number of ambulance journeys, *(b)* the number of journeys undertaken by friends and relatives of patients and *(c)* arrangements for patients' post-operative care arising from the decision by the East of England Strategic Health Authority to withdraw emergency cardiac provision in Ipswich hospital. [282137]

Phil Hope: The Department has issued advice about transport management (Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 07-03) which sets out carbon impacts of travel, Climate Change requirements and the necessity to take these aspects into account in developing Transport Plans and Strategies. A copy of HTM 07-03 has been placed in the Library.

The Department's Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009-10 - high quality care for all is the second in a three year planning cycle established by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review to provide a solid platform for improving the quality of care and focusing on the priorities that matter most to patients, staff and public. Within the section on Local Priorities, it states: paragraph 8, page 42

> "The NHS can make significant contributions to reducing its carbon impact. Every NHS organisation should ensure that it measures and progressively reduces its own carbon footprint. This will save resources now, improve health today and set an important example to deliver high quality and sustainable services for the future."

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what socio-economic impact assessment was made by the East of England Strategic Health Authority of its proposal to withdraw emergency cardiac provision in Ipswich Hospital. [282138]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the local national health service and it is the responsibility of primary care trusts in conjunction with local stakeholders to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Food Standards Agency: Public Appointments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what stage has been reached in the process of appointing a new Chair of the Food Standards Agency; and when he expects the successful candidate to take up the post. [282888]

Gillian Merron: The position of Chair of the Food Standards Agency is appointed jointly by the Secretary of State for Health and Health Ministers in the devolved Administrations. The role was advertised in March 2009 for a period of four weeks. The application window closed on 14 April. The selection panel shortlisted the applications in May and interviewed candidates in June. Ministers considered the panel's recommendations and agreed the noble Lord Rooker as the preferred candidate.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has invited the House of Commons Health Select Committee to scrutinise the preferred candidate prior to appointment.

The process, run by the Appointments Commission, is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and has been conducted in accordance with Commissioner's Code of Practice for Public Appointments, involving an independent assessor at all stages including shortlisting and interview panel.

Health Services: Technology

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of older people who are supported to live in their own homes by telecare or other assistive technologies; and if he will make a statement. [281486]

Phil Hope: 'Building Telecare in England' (Department of Health July 2005), a copy of which has been placed in the Library, identified that there were 1.4 million users of telecare. Since that time it is estimated that investments made with the £80 million preventative technology grant and other funding sources have seen the number of new telecare and telehealth users increase by over 200,000.

Hospitals: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions there have been for *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients with diagnosis code (i) F30, (ii) F31, (iii) F32, (iv) F33, (v) F34, (vi) F35, (vii) F36, (viii) F37, (ix) F38 and (x) F39 (A) under 14, (B) aged 14 to 17 and (C) aged 18 years and over in each (X) region and (Y) primary care trust in each of the last five years; and what the mean waiting time for admission was in each case; [281147]

(2) how many hospital admissions there have been for *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients with diagnosis code (i) F20, (ii) F21, (iii) F22, (iv) F23, (v) F24, (vi) F25, (vii) F26, (viii) F27, (ix) F28 and (x) F29 (A) under 14, (B) aged 14 to 17 and (C) aged 18 years and over in (X) each region and (Y) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; and what the mean waiting time for admission was in each case. [281150]

Phil Hope: This information has been placed in the Library.

It should be noted that the number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as one patient may have been admitted more than once.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients aged (i) under 14, (ii) 14 to 17 and (iii) 18 or more years old with diagnosis code (A) K70.0, (B) K70.1, (C) K70.2, (D) K70.3, (E) K70.4, (F) K70.5, (G) K 70.6, (H) K70.7, (I) K70.8 and (J) K70.9 in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [281301]

Gillian Merron: A copy of the requested information has been placed in the Library.

On advice from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care (Information Centre) data by primary care trust (PCT) have not been given, instead data have been given by strategic health authority (SHA). This is because the small number of patients at PCT level requires that all of the data for the 14 to 17 age group and the majority of the 18 and over age group would have to be suppressed, to prevent any identification of individuals, which means that the data which could be supplied would be meaningless.

Additionally, the Information Centre has advised that SHA data be used instead of Government office region (GOR) data. SHAs have very similar boundaries to GOR, with the exception of South East Coast SHA and South Central SHA, which are together aggregated to South East GOR.

It should be noted that after 2005-06 the SHA configurations changed, with the 28 SHAs merging to form 10 larger SHAs. No data have been given for K70.5, K70.6, K70.7 and K70.8 as these diagnosis codes are not used. Additionally, the number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as one patient may have been admitted more than once.

Hospitals: Emergencies

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to NHS trusts on the staff-to-patient ratio required to evacuate a hospital in an emergency. [281446]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's guidance on staff to patient ratios required to evacuate a hospital in an emergency is contained in "Firecode: Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 05-02 Guidance in support of functional provisions for healthcare premises", published in April 2007, which has been placed in the Library.

Responsibility for ensuring adequate numbers of suitably trained personnel rests with the management of the local organisation. The guidance states that for any department or management unit, there should be a minimum of two staff present at all times. Where the number of patients exceeds thirty, the number of staff should be increased by one for every 10 (or up to 10) patients.

Prior to April 2007, the same information was contained in "Firecode: Health Technical Memorandum 81, published in 1987".

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of hospital waiting times in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* nationally. [282262]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect referral to treatment waiting times data at constituency level or at county level. However, the following table shows the average referral to treatment times for primary care trusts serving Ribble Valley constituency, North West strategic health authority (SHA) and England in April 2009 (latest published data):

Median referral to treatment times

		Weeks
	Admitted pathways	*Non-admitted pathways*
East Lancashire Primary Care Trust	6.6	4.7
Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust	6.1	4.8
North West SHA	7.5	4.2
England	7.7	4.2

Source:
Department of Health Referral to Treatment data.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of average waiting times for hospital treatment in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London. [282474]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department collects referral to treatment (RTT) data at trust and primary care trust level. Average (median) RTT waiting times for April 2009 (latest published data) are as follows:

Median RTT times

		Weeks
	Admitted pathways	*Non-admitted pathways*
Bexley Care Trust	6.4	4.2
London Strategic Health Authority	7.2	4.0
England	7.7	4.2

Influenza

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the influenza pandemic response strategy in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* nationally. [282261]

Gillian Merron: National health service organisations in the North West have been preparing their pandemic response for the last five years. All 63 NHS organisations in the North West region have provided assurance to the NHS North West strategic health authority (SHA) that they have robust plans in place to respond to an influenza pandemic.

The NHS Operating Framework stated that all NHS organisations should have robust pandemic flu plans in place by December 2009. Self-assessment of plans have been completed against the requirements set out in the "National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic". (A copy of this has already been placed in the Library).

Following the outbreak of swine flu in April, SHAs have revisited and reviewed primary care trust plans, in particular to ensure resilience of antiviral collection points (ACPs).

Lancashire has several ACPs which will be open to the general public plus others which are located in prisons and hospitals for prisoners and in-patients. Of the ACPs in Lancashire, several can be operational within 48 hours, and the remaining within 96 hours or a week.

The Ribble Valley is a more rural area and has its main ACP, for public access, located at Clitheroe hospital which is a community hospital. The population of the Ribble Valley can also access several other ACPs in the area.

Influenza: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse to date of the *(a)* interim and *(b)* full National Pandemic Flu Service; what original estimate was made of the outturn cost of each service; and what his latest estimate is of the outturn cost; [282168]

(2) on what date his Department first requested Treasury funding for the full National Pandemic Flu Service; and on what date his Department was notified that funding approval had been given. [282169]

Gillian Merron: The costs incurred to date for system development amount to £11 million. The development costs of the interim solution are £1.4 million. The predicted out-turn for 2009-10 was £18 million (excluding £14.8 million of costs that were contingent on a pandemic actually occurring). The out-turn allowing for a possible mobilisation has now been forecast at £33.6 million under the full National Pandemic Flu Service and £31.7 million under the interim solution.

HM Treasury (HMT) were sighted throughout the developmental work for the National Pandemic Flu Service. The Department formally requested approval for funding on 18 November 2008 and this was granted by HMT on 1 December 2008.

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of treatment involving meditation in *(a)* mental health and *(b)* other health care. [282764]

Phil Hope: No assessment has been made.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of meditation techniques in *(a)* mental health care and *(b)* other aspects of health care for prisoners. [283101]

Phil Hope: No assessment has been made.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are being prescribed low-dose naltrexone for the treatment of multiple sclerosis on the NHS. [282005]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of patients prescribed particular drugs is not known, nor the purpose for which they are used. In 2008, the Prescription Cost Analysis system indicates there were 900 prescription items dispensed in the community, in England for low dose naltrexone drugs between 1.5mg and 4.5mg. Available data indicate there was no use of low dose naltrexone drugs in hospitals in England.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the TFR3 and PFR3 financial returns submitted to his Department, how much *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* other NHS trusts have spent on (i) administrative and clerical staff, (ii) remuneration of chairmen and non-executive directors, (iii) laundry and cleaning equipment, (iv) postage, (v) telephones, (vi) advertising, (vii) electricity, (viii) gas, (ix) other fuel including oil and coal, (x) business rates, (xi) rent, (xii) remuneration of auditors, (xiii) external contract staffing and consultancy services and (xiv) contract hotel services including cleaning and catering contracts in each year since 2003-04. [278488]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested are provided in the following tables.

£ million

NHS trusts (TFR3)	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Administrative and clerical staff—NHS	2,364,960	2,437,784	2,508,623	2,408,654	2,163,292
Administrative and clerical staff—non NHS	127,972	111,859	113,957	98,565	131,360
Administrative and clerical staff—total	2,492,932	2,549,643	2,622,580	2,507,219	2,294,652
Remuneration of chairman and non-executive directors	19,384	16,119	15,272	12,232	11,560
Laundry and cleaning equipment	80,937	65,219	71,230	67,529	64,585
Postage	48,824	43,928	42,934	39,342	36,155
Telephones	144,256	127,271	121,930	115,282	102,752
Advertising	84,766	66,279	43,349	21,112	23,233
Electricity	114,351	121,574	160,550	174,033	140,117
Gas	90,043	99,896	148,227	128,974	101,936
Other fuel including oil and coal	34,459	32,787	34,186	26,702	24,104
Business rates	176,170	157,022	163,442	183,930	157,402
Rent	176,872	186,677	224,110	266,446	282,998
Remuneration of auditors	40,282	36,864	36,751	37,024	33,895
External contract staff and consultancy services	157,425	135,150	158,277	163,393	155,544
Contract hotel services including cleaning and catering contracts	375,992	314,623	352,927	388,555	389,841

Note:

In 2003-04 NHS Professionals was administered by West Yorkshire ambulance services trust. To avoid double counting, expenditure by NHS Professionals on administrative and clerical staff has been eliminated in the table above.

£ 000

Primary Care Trusts (PFR3)	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Administrative and clerical staff—NHS	605,683	759,524	910,954	1,004,588	1,079,280
Administrative and clerical staff—non NHS	53,980	60,926	72,329	73,640	115,109
Administrative and clerical staff—total	659,663	820,450	983,283	1,078,228	1,194,389
PCT chairman, board and executive remuneration	124,782				
Remuneration of chairman and non-executive directors		88,095	77,949	52,026	42,687
Laundry and cleaning equipment	9,495	7,822	10,412	11,594	14,297
Postage	19,220	19,404	20,050	19,580	20,585
Telephones	59,864	64,542	67,080	66,288	73,361
Advertising	45,325	45,382	29,183	15,122	29,149
Electricity	15,308	20,072	26,827	33,541	34,827
Gas	13,083	14,993	22,232	25,198	25,476
Other fuel including oil and coal	1,846	1,497	2,145	2,443	2,927
Business rates	41,415	40,952	49,829	62,083	65,901
Rent	86,230	93,751	144,718	193,310	259,579
Remuneration of auditors	35,378	36,186	37,288	46,720	40,530
External contract staff and consultancy services	53,101	55,925	71,600	74,383	139,172
Contract hotel services including cleaning and catering contracts	30,561	29,201	40,835	44,459	47,469

Note:

In the 2003-04 PFRs the heading was 'PCT chairman, board and executive remuneration' and so is not directly comparable with the heading 'Remuneration of chairman and non-executive directors' used from 2004-05 onwards.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the funds for the extension of the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework to cover NHS trusts in the South of England that are not included in the Local Service Provider contract with BT will be taken from the existing National Programme for IT budget; [282885]

(2) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework in the next five years; [282886]

(3) how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total, *(b)* in accrediting systems for and *(c)* in staffing costs of the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework in each year since its inception; [282887]

(4) from which budget funding for the extension of the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework to cover the 52 NHS Trusts in the south of England that are not included in the local service provider contract with BT will be drawn; [283260]

(5) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework in each of the next five years; [283261]

(6) what his Department's expenditure on the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity Framework has been in each year since its inception; and what the cost of *(a)* accrediting systems for and *(b)* staffing the Framework was in each of those years. [283262]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Systems deployed under the Additional Supply Capability and Capacity (ASCC) framework in the south of England will be funded as part of the National Programme for IT, within existing resources. Proposals for trusts in the south to use the ASCC will be subject to appropriate approvals being obtained. Part of the process will be to establish the likely overall demand and estimated value of contracts to be awarded. This has not yet been completed.

Financial management information is not kept in a way that enables all the costs of the ASCC to be separately identified within the staffing and other administrative costs of NHS Connecting for Health, which is responsible, within the Department, for the National Programme for IT. However, suppliers' systems are not "accredited" as a part of the ASCC procurement. The purpose of the procurement is to create a framework of suppliers with demonstrated capacity and capability in various specialisms. Subsequently, on identification of a business need, each trust will specify its particular requirements to suppliers in the most appropriate service category. It will be for suppliers to demonstrate how they can meet this need against the procurement's specific evaluation criteria.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the osteoporosis diagnosis and prevention scheme provided for in the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (England) (Amendment) Directions 2009. [282131]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The two-year clinical Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for Osteoporosis was brought in to cover the period April 2008 to March 2010 following agreement reached between the British Medical Association (BMA) and NHS Employers (on behalf of the Government) and announced in September 2008. Subsequently, joint guidance was issued to general practitioner (GP) practices and primary care trusts (PCTs) in the same month to enable GP practices choosing to take up the DES to begin working on delivering the agreed specification, with the Directions amending GP contractual arrangements issued in February 2009. These arrangements were supported by further guidance issued jointly by the BMA and NHS Employers in the same month.

Financial data from PCTs indicate that PCTs have made some achievement payments in 2008-09 against the delivery by general practice of this DES, with greater reward available against achievement expected in 2009-10. Discussions about contractual arrangements applying to GP practices for 2010-11 and beyond are currently ongoing.

Pharmacy: Crime

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to decriminalise dispensing errors by pharmacists under the Medicines Act 1968. [282155]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government recognise concerns that specific provisions contained in the 1968 Medicines Act may be used to prosecute pharmacists who make a dispensing error.

A full review of the Medicines Act is already under way by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This will include consideration of changes that may be made to the law to ensure that it provides the necessary safeguards for the public while being proportionate as to how instances of clinical error are dealt with. The MHRA is working closely with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and other stakeholders on the Medicines Act review.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to bring forward the timetable for publication of the report of Sir Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges. [282164]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Professor Gilmore is due to report on his review of prescription charges to departmental Ministers in the autumn. The review was due to report to departmental Ministers in the summer. However, following discussions between Ministers and Professor Gilmore, he will undertake further work in order to ensure that proposals can be implemented smoothly and efficiently.

Skin Cancer: Health Education

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department allocated to the SunSmart campaign in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; [281728]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to the SunSmart campaign for 2009-10; [281730]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the SunSmart campaign; and if he will publish that assessment. [281732]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 22 June 2009]*: SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments has been allocated the following funding from the Department of Health, England, for the campaign:

	£
2006-07	150,000
2007-08	104,000
2008-09	110,000
2009-10	115,000

The Cancer Reform Strategy also made commitments to increase the funding available for awareness programmes and has provided additional monies in 2008-09 and 2009-10 for national and local skin cancer initiatives.

In surveys done by Cancer Research UK, some significant increases in awareness of sun/skin cancer issues, and of self-reported practice of preventive actions, have been observed. We will discuss arrangements with Cancer Research UK about how to place this information in the public domain.

Thalidomide

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to compensate those who have suffered adverse effects as a consequence of drugs prescribed by the NHS before the provisions of the Medicine Act 1968 came into effect; [279990]

(2) if he will bring forward measures for the financial compensation of thalidomiders whose mothers were prescribed thalidomide by the NHS. [280024]

Gillian Merron: Thalidomide victims are compensated through a private settlement, which was agreed between the Thalidomide Trust, which was established to administer annual payments to victims, and Distillers, which is now part of Diageo plc., the company that marketed the drug in the United Kingdom. Compensation payments are therefore a matter for the Thalidomide Trust and Diageo plc.

It is the Department's policy not to make ex-gratia payments to patients who believe their health has been adversely affected by the use of pharmaceutical products. Responsibility rests with the pharmaceutical company concerned.

Responsibility for the testing of thalidomide, including tests to assess its safety, lies with Chemie Grünenthal, the original developer of the drug. In the United Kingdom, Distillers also undertook testing on thalidomide before its introduction to the UK market.

Prior to the thalidomide tragedy, there was no formal drug regulation system in place to monitor the safety of medicines in the UK. As a result of the tragedy, a complete review of the machinery for marketing, testing and regulating drugs was initiated, including enactment of the Medicines Act 1968, which introduced stricter testing for medicines prior to licensing to ensure that they meet acceptable standards of safety and efficacy.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Airbus A350

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect that provision of launch aid expenditure on the Airbus A350 would have on the UK aerospace industry; [281873]

(2) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the provision of EU launch aid for the Airbus A350; and if he will make a statement. [281788]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 23 June 2009]*: As part of our usual due diligence process when considering launch investment requests, the Government have carried out a detailed assessment of the possible provision of support to Airbus for the A350 XWB aircraft. This includes detailed analysis of the company's business case, technical viability of the project, the potential market, and anticipated benefits to the UK aerospace industry and the wider economy. As a result of this analysis we are proceeding with negotiations with the company.

At the Paris Air Show, on 15 June, the Minister for Science and Technology held discussions with his equivalent Ministers from France and Germany as part of the regular Airbus ministerial meetings held at the major European air shows. These discussions included financing arrangements for the A350 XWB on which the UK, French, German and Spanish Governments are in separate negotiations with Airbus. The Minister for Science and Technology confirmed the UK's commitment to Airbus and the A350 XWB programme and confirmed our aim to complete negotiations for support in the coming weeks.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he expects the decision to be taken on whether to provide launch aid funding for Airbus A350; [282165]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the UK which the allocation of launch aid funding for the Airbus A350 would *(a)* create and *(b)* secure. [282173]

Ian Lucas: The Department is in negotiations with Airbus over support for the A350 XWB programme. We would aim to complete these within the next few weeks; however this is subject to reaching satisfactory agreement with the company.

The long term nature of this project, and the fact that negotiations are still continuing, make it hard to be precise about the numbers of UK-based jobs that will be created directly within Airbus and within the A350 XWB supply chain. However, our assessment is that the programme will provide significant employment opportunities as well as generating skills and expertise that will help keep the UK at the forefront of aerospace technology.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on post-implementation reviews of regulations affecting businesses. [280737]

Ian Lucas: The Impact Assessment template requires the timing for the post-implementation review of the regulatory proposal to be set out.

A post-implementation review should establish the actual costs and benefits of the policy and whether it is achieving its desired effects and delivering the policy objective.

Guidance for conducting a post-implementation review is part of the Impact Assessment guidance, available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/policy/scrutinising-new-regulations/preparing-impact-assessments/page44077.html

On 20 March 2008 the Government announced a new approach to post-legislative scrutiny [Command Paper 7320] in response to a report by the Law Commission.

This new approach will complement the Government's internal departmental scrutiny with parliamentary scrutiny—principally by Committees of the House of Commons. Government Departments will publish a memorandum on appropriate Acts of Parliament which will enable the departmental Select Committees of the Commons to decide whether to conduct further scrutiny. Details are available at:

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7320/7320.pdf.

Colin Matthews and BAA

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have (i) met and (ii) had discussions with (A) Colin Matthews and (B) BAA. [276386]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furnes (Mr. Hatton), the then Secretary of State for BERR, met Sir Nigel Rudd on 28 November 2007 and 13 March 2008. My noble Friend, Lord Jones of Birmingham, the then Minister for Trade and Investment met Sir Nigel Rudd on 30 April 2008. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competitiveness and Small Business met Colin Matthews on 1 May 2009. Officials also met a representative from BAA on 21 October 2008, and had further discussions with BAA prior to each ministerial meeting shown above.

Construction

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to appoint a chief construction officer; and if he will make a statement. [280645]

Ian Lucas: I will make a statement shortly.

Further Education: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of young people resident in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby were in further education (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [282528]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in the following tables for Merseyside and Liverpool local education authority (LEA). This information is not available below LEA level.

Proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds[1] in education and work based learning

Percentage

	Full time further education			*All education and work based learning*		
	Age 16	*Age 17*	*All aged 16 and 17*	*Age 16*	*Age 17*	*All aged 16 and 17*
Merseyside						
End 1997	67	53	60	86	75	81
End 2007	76	63	70	89	78	84
Liverpool						
End 1997	63	46	54	83	67	75
End 2007	77	63	70	92	80	86

[1] The age of a learner is measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Source:

Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18-year-olds in England. (Merseyside figures calculated from unrounded data for constituent LEAs.)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

General Motors

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of General Motors on the future of GM Europe; [274337]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU member states on the future of General Motors Europe; [274338]

(3) whether he plans to have discussions with Fiat on its interest in the future of GM Europe and the position of General Motors operations in the UK. [274339]

Ian Lucas: Government have had a number of discussions with GM, counterparts in other EU member states, the US Government, Fiat, Magna and other interested parties, including trade unions, about the future of GM Europe. BIS Ministers, GM Europe and ministerial counterparts from EU member states formally met on 13 March. My noble Friend the Secretary of State and officials have regular meetings and discussions with a wide variety of interested parties.

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 925-26W, on insolvency, whether he has made an estimate of the projected increase in numbers of company administrations in 2009-10, based on the trends identified; and whether he has made an assessment of the merits of making additional funds available to the Insolvency Service to take account of the increase in the number of company administrations owing to the current economic situation. [281830]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* No official estimates of the number of company administrations in 2009/10 and beyond have been compiled by the Insolvency Service (The Service). This is because company administrations are overseen by private practice insolvency practitioners, and so do not require additional funds from The Service. Administrators have a duty to report to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the conduct of directors and shadow directors of a company in administration. Where an adverse report has been submitted, The Service may carry out an investigation. The Service has implemented a number of initiatives to assist in the planning and management to deal with increases in the number of adverse reports, including more pro-active targeting and prioritisation of cases.

The Service also monitors compliance by insolvency practitioners with Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 (SIP 16 Pre-packaged sales in administrations), with which all insolvency practitioners are required to comply. Pre-pack administrations are where a sale of the business or assets is arranged before administration and executed by the administrator immediately on or shortly after their appointment. SIP 16 requires insolvency practitioners in pre-pack administrations to explain in detail to creditors the background to their appointment and the reasons for any transaction undertaken through a pre-pack.

An increase in the number of administrations could result in an increase in the number of reports submitted to the Service under SIP 16. This work is part of The Service's regulatory function. The Service has increased its fees to insolvency practitioners to cover our regulation work in relation to SIP 16s.

The Redundancy Payments Services has also had additional funds available to take into account the increase in the number of overall company insolvencies.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what monitoring of compliance with the Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 on pre-packaged sales in administrations is taking place; and if he will publish the results of such monitoring. [282177]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* New disclosure requirements aimed at improving the transparency of pre-packaged administrations were introduced on 1 January 2009. The requirements are contained within SIP (Statement of Insolvency Practice) 16, which all insolvency practitioners acting as administrators are required to follow.

The Insolvency Service is thoroughly examining all information received from insolvency practitioners in relation to disclosures made under SIP 16. Any evidence of non-compliance with SIP 16 on the part of insolvency practitioners will be reported to their relevant regulatory body so that disciplinary action may be considered.

In addition, the Insolvency Service is examining the conduct of directors involved in pre-pack administrations and will take into account information disclosed under SIP 16 when considering whether to commence disqualification proceedings against directors.

A report on the Insolvency Service's monitoring of information disclosed under SIP 16 will be published before the summer recess.

Internet: Iran

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate the Government has made of the quantity of exports from the UK to Iran of technology intended to inspect, monitor or filter internet content in the latest period for which figures are available. [282199]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* UK trade statistics do not allow us to identify exports from the UK to Iran of technology intended to inspect, monitor or filter internet content and the Government have not made an estimate of these types of export.

The Government publish statistical summaries of export licences issued and refused by destination in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. No UK licences have been issued for the export of items which might have contained technology intended to inspect, monitor or filter internet content to Iran since 1999. Such technology would however not necessarily be controlled under UK export controls. This would depend on the specific items concerned: some technology could be controlled if it employed cryptography or was specially designed for military use.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the vehicle scrappage scheme on the second-hand car market; and if he will make a statement. [281999]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* The vehicle scrappage scheme is a targeted, time-limited action with a capped budget designed to help the whole motor trade. It was limited to make sure its benefits are balanced with the needs of other sectors of the car industry including the second hand market and repair businesses, and of manufacturers of other consumer durables. Over 74,000 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scheme was announced in the Budget in April.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the increase in car sales attributable to the introduction of the car scrappage scheme; and what percentage of this increase is represented by vehicles produced in the UK. [282550]

Ian Lucas: Over 74,000 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scrappage scheme was announced in the Budget in April. It is too early to give an estimate of how many of these orders are attributable to the scrappage scheme and what percentage of these are produced in the UK.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration was given to the merits of introducing a vehicle scrappage incentive scheme based on a vehicle's carbon dioxide emissions. [282551]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* The scrappage scheme was primarily designed to boost the automotive industry and restore consumer confidence not as a green measure. However, we believe that there will be some benefits for the environment as old vehicles are replaced by newer, by and large more fuel-efficient models. A summary of the wide range of Government initiatives aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from road vehicles was set out in our "Ultra-Low Carbon Vehicles in the UK" strategy published on 16 April 2009.

Train to Gain Programme

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how people who lose their jobs can access the Train to Gain opportunities announced by his Department on 14 October 2008. [272646]

Kevin Brennan: The programme announced includes £100 million for support for people who are unemployed or facing redundancy. We now expect that funding to provide training places for around 70,000 people.

Individuals who are under notice of redundancy will be able to access the funding training arranged by their employers. Employers will be able to get help and advice and access training through brokerage service run by Business Link or by contacting the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for advice.

People who are recently redundant or who have been claiming unemployment benefits and who can be helped back into work through this targeted training programme will be able to access the programme by referral from their local JobCentre Plus office or next steps agency.

Train to Gain Programme: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure from the public purse has been incurred on the Train to Gain initiative in each month since January 2009; and what funds have been allocated to the initiative for each of the next three years. [277195]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for funding of the Train to Gain programme. Based on provisional and unaudited accounts, LSC expenditure on Train to Gain was £72 million in January 2009, £95 million in February 2009 and £91 million in March 2009. These figures will be confirmed when the LSC publish their accounts in July 2009. Figures for April and May 2009 are not yet available.

Planned investment in Train to Gain for 2009-10 (financial year) is £925 million (LSC Grant Letter, November 2008). Planned investment for 2010-11 will be confirmed in autumn 2009, any expenditure beyond 2010-11 will subject to the outcome of the next spending review.

UK Trade and Investment: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much UK Trade and Investment has received from each of its funding streams in each year since 2003. [281679]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) received the following amounts from each of its funding streams:

Outturn (£000)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]
UKTI programme	96,614	99,405	95,374	94,088	90,167	90,815
BIS administration	48,248	47,805	46,444	43,107	53,755	55,725
FCO resource	143,843	138,462	142,578	161,361	170,348	182,843
	288,705	285,672	284,396	298,556	314,270	329,383

[1] Provisional outturn

The responsibility for defence exports transferred from the Ministry of Defence under a Machinery of Government change on 1 April 2008 (a transfer of approximately £20 million).

From 2006-07, as a result of enhancing their costing model, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) changed the basis of calculation of the total resource used by UKTI. The FCO resource figures for the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 are not available on a comparable basis to subsequent periods, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Youth Justice Board : Manpower

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* consultants employed by the Youth Justice Board in each financial year since 2003-04 had security clearance at (i) counter-terrorist check, (ii) baseline check, (iii) security check and (iv) developed vetting level. [282002]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers and level of security clearance that Youth Justice Board staff (including full and part-time permanent staff, seconded and temporary workers) and consultants (which includes consultants used by the YJB and contractors who work for the YJB) had during each of the requested years.

	Employer Type	Baseline Check	Enhanced Baseline Check	Counter Terrorist Check	Security Clearance	Developed Vetting
2003-04	Staff	42	—	56	2	0
2003-04	Consultants	16	—	0	0	0
2004-05	Staff	102	—	68	4	0
2004-05	Consultants	41	—	0	0	0
2005-06	Staff	122	—	71	6	0
2005-06	Consultants	42	—	0	0	0
2006-07	Staff	130	5	69	8	0
2006-07	Consultants	58	0	0	0	0
2007-08	Staff	100	68	84	9	0
2007-08	Consultants	38	40	0	0	0
2008-09	Staff	94	125	83	11	0
2008-09	Consultants	57	64	0	0	0

In 2008-09 28 staff also had Disclosure Scotland clearance.

Please note the figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not fully verifiable so the figures provided are based on the best available data.

Absenteeism: Pupils

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parents in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby have appeared in court on charges related to the unauthorised absence from school of their child in the last (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months. [282526]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has policy responsibility for school attendance and the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the collection of prosecution data where parents have failed to ensure their children's regular school attendance. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 16 June, *Official Report*, column 242W.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 16 years have been issued with a penalty notice for disorder for each category of offence for which such notices are issued. [278450]

Mr. Straw: PNDs for young persons under the age of 16 were piloted for a year from July 2005 in six police force areas (Merseyside, Lancashire, Essex, Nottingham, west midlands (including West Midlands British Transport Police) and the Metropolitan Police (Kingston Division)). The most recent published data on the number of PNDs issued, by area and offence from the pilots are set out in the following tables.

The evaluation report on penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for 10 to 15-year-olds was published on 5 November 2008. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Number of PNDs issued correctly by force and offence type (July 2005 to June 2006)

	Lancashire	Merseyside	Metropolitan police	Nottinghamshire
£40 penalty				
Wasting police time	23	11	0	2
Improper use of electronic communication	4	5	0	2
Knowingly giving false alarm to the fire brigade	4	1	0	0
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	388	713	0	44
Throwing fireworks	8	23	0	1
Drunk and disorderly	144	113	0	3
Selling alcohol to under 18s	3	0	0	0
Buying alcohol for person under 18	0	1	0	1
Purchasing alcohol for consumption in licensed premises	0	1	0	0
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	0	1	0	0
Destroying or damaging property (under £500)	566	737	2	27
Theft (retail under £200)	453	579	2	15
Possession of a category 4 firework	1	1	0	0

Number of PNDs issued correctly by force and offence type (July 2005 to June 2006)

	Lancashire	*Merseyside*	*Metropolitan police*	*Nottinghamshire*
Possession by a person under 18 of an adult firework	1	8	0	3
£30 penalty				
Trespassing on railways	4	6	0	0
Throwing stones at a train	0	1	0	0
Drunk in highway	18	34	0	0
Drinking alcohol in designated public place	21	7	0	0
Depositing and leaving litter	12	23	0	5
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a persons under 18	2	11	0	0
Force total	1,652	2,296	4	103

	West midlands + BTP	*Essex*	*All areas*
£40 penalty			
Wasting police time	13	0	49
Improper use of electronic communication	2	1	14
Knowingly giving false alarm to the fire brigade	3	0	8
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	109	26	1,280
Throwing fireworks	2	0	34
Drunk and disorderly	11	4	275
Selling alcohol to under 18s	0	0	3
Buying alcohol for person under 18	2	0	4
Purchasing alcohol for consumption in licensed premises	0	0	1
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	0	0	1
Destroying or damaging property (under £500)	51	15	1,418
Theft (retail under £200)	70	30	1,149
Possession of a category 4 firework	0	0	2
Possession by a person under 18 of an adult firework	0	0	12
£30 penalty			
Trespassing on railways	21	0	31
Throwing stones at a train	4	0	5
Drunk in highway	2	2	56
Drinking alcohol in designated public place	0	0	28
Depositing and leaving litter	11	0	51
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a persons under 18	0	0	13
Force total	301	78	4,434

Asylum: Tribunals

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times a hearing at each asylum and immigration tribunal was adjourned for each reason for adjournment, in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [282245]

Bridget Prentice: For the financial year 2008-09, 12,063 substantive Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) hearings were adjourned from a total of 126,541 substantive hearings. The following table details the reasons for each adjournment.

The table includes a significant number of cases adjourned for a further reconsideration hearing. Once a reconsideration application has been granted, there is a first stage hearing to ascertain whether an error in law has occurred. If a material error of law is found, the case is officially 'adjourned', and there is a second stage hearing after which the AIT substitutes a fresh decision to allow or dismiss the appeal.

Table 1: Number of adjournments at substantive hearing, by reason and case type for financial year 2008-09

All AIT substantive hearings

			Case type				
Adjournment reason	*Asylum*	*Immigration out of country ECO*	*Immigration in country MM*	*Visit visa*	*Deport appeal*	*Human rights etc.*[1]	*Total*
Appellant sick	85	38	127	15	2	2	269
Other reason given for Appellant's non attendance	48	50	71	67	1	3	240
Non appearance by witness	56	123	81	161	1	3	425
Appellant's documents missing	55	117	79	109	0	0	360
Awaiting withdrawal confirmation from Appellant/Representative	3	6	6	0	0	0	15
Appellant has been unable to find a Representative	19	8	25	2	0	0	54
Appellant has not instructed a Representative	15	37	11	5	0	0	68
Appellant requires all female/male court	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Appellant not brought from Detention Centre	5	0	67	0	1	0	73
Non appearance by Presenting Officer	21	34	28	2	0	2	87
Home Office have not complied with directions	89	124	80	94	0	3	390
Home Office documents missing	121	453	122	251	1	6	954
Defective removal notice	2	0	4	1	0	0	7
Home Office reconsidering their decision	23	22	75	2	0	6	128
Pending confirmation from Home Office of withdrawal by Appellant	0	4	7	1	0	0	12
Transcript/tape n/a or distorted	10	4	7	0	0	0	21
Home Office file/bundle not received	21	108	13	47	0	1	190
Immigration Judge sick or fails to attend	8	15	5	30	0	0	58
Immigration Judge not available	10	37	6	51	0	0	104
Interpreter sick	3	0	0	2	0	0	5
Other reason given for interpreter's non attendance	8	2	6	1	0	0	17
AIT file missing or incomplete	1	14	7	9	0	0	31
Wrong Interpreter requested by Representative/Appellant	23	6	9	2	0	1	41
Interpreter not requested by Representative/Appellant	6	35	17	22	1	0	81
Appellant objects to Interpreter's Religion/Nationality	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Inadequate interpreter	42	9	5	0	0	0	56
Wrong/No interpreter booked	51	23	18	7	0	0	99
No interpreter available in required language	27	19	6	10	0	0	62
Lack of court time	146	66	101	70	0	2	385
Notice of hearing incorrectly served or not served	22	80	27	156	0	2	287
Directions not sent to Representative/Home Office	0	11	5	6	0	0	22
Case not listed for the correct Immigration Judge	12	15	13	11	0	1	52
Case suspended	6	21	13	0	0	0	40
Needs a combined hearing	27	24	49	20	0	0	120
List for legal/non panel hearing	36	1	3	0	0	0	40
Reclassified	54	3	6	4	0	0	67
Further reconsideration hearing rule 31(2)	935	569	784	103	0	43	2,434
Court closed	49	110	89	136	0	1	385
Case transferred follow instructions from Immigration Judge	11	21	30	20	0	0	82
Representative Sick	73	60	57	43	0	1	234
Representatives withdraw from case	17	7	16	4	0	0	44
Representative/Counsel double booked in two courts	4	9	2	1	0	0	16
Other reason for Representatives non attendance	38	95	47	49	1	0	230

Table 1: Number of adjournments at substantive hearing, by reason and case type for financial year 2008-09

All AIT substantive hearings

			Case type				
Adjournment reason	*Asylum*	*Immigration out of country ECO*	*Immigration in country MM*	*Visit visa*	*Deport appeal*	*Human rights etc.*[1]	*Total*
Representatives instructed late	47	43	52	16	0	2	160
Representative need to supply medical report	133	113	66	3	2	3	320
For further evidence to be supplied by Representative	377	582	454	150	0	10	1,573
Representative has not complied with directions	75	36	60	6	1	1	179
Representative has changed circumstances	11	9	12	5	0	0	37
Other reasons for Representative needing more time	181	216	238	67	2	13	717
New Home Office issue unexpectedly raised	110	224	228	37	3	2	604
Document needs to be authenticated or translated	59	50	33	11	0	0	153
Representative waiting decision on CLR funding	3	5	4	0	0	0	12
Case transferred following request from Representative	3	6	2	5	0	0	16
Total	3,185	3,664	3,276	1,814	16	108	12,063

[1] Includes human rights, racial discrimination and deprivation of citizenship.

British Constitution

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the statement of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 795-99, on constitutional renewal, what options for sanctions he plans to propose for hon. Members who breach the proposed statutory code of conduct. [280244]

Barbara Keeley: I have been asked to reply.

Clause 9 of the Parliamentary Standards Bill as published creates new criminal offences relating to claims for allowances and Members' financial interests. The House will also retain its current disciplinary powers in relation to misconduct by Members.

Complaints

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the merits of amending the Data Protection Acts 1998 and 2002 to provide for the immediate deletion of records held by employers of complaints made by them against former employees in circumstances in which such complaints are withdrawn. [282676]

Mr. Wills: All processing of personal data in the UK must be carried out in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). The fifth data protection principle in the DPA requires that personal data are not kept for longer than is necessary for the purpose for which it was collected. This principle would apply to any personal data contained in complaints against former employees, including those that are later withdrawn. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for investigating and enforcing compliance with the DPA. Any concerns that a data controller is not complying with the Act may be referred to the ICO.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority made to individuals with a criminal record in each year for which figures are available. [281950]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority does not maintain records for the number of awards made to individuals with a criminal record. However, the numbers of awards reduced (under Paragraphs 13 and 15 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS)) because of criminal convictions are as follows:

	Number of awards reduced because of applicant's/deceased's criminal convictions	*Total number of awards made under the CICS*
2004-05	1,399	35,352
2005-06	1,487	33,697
2006-07	1,500	31,407
2007-08	1,862	39,091
2008-09	1,958	36,461

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority made to individuals injured while trying to prevent a crime or while helping a police officer catch a suspected criminal in each year for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of such awards was in each such year. [281951]

Mr. Straw: This information is not recorded centrally by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. However, figures detailing the numbers of awards made (excluding those to police officers) where the applicant took an exceptional risk and was injured in attempting to apprehend an offender, and the total monetary value of these awards, are as follows:

Cases where applicant attempted to apprehend an offender[1]

	Number	*Value of cases (£)*
1996-97	76	143,923
1997-98	242	449,532
1998-99	260	589,658
1999-2000	193	481,662
2000-01	203	464,425
2001-02	248	546,645
2002-03	216	610,777
2003-04	221	597,090
2004-05	135	641,369
2005-06	121	375,852
2006-07	102	255,911
2007-08	143	435,488
2008-09	168	976,028

[1] Exceptional risk.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority made in each year for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of those awards was in each such year. [281953]

Mr. Straw: The numbers of awards made by CICA between 1996-97 and 2008-09, and the monetary value of those awards in each of these years, are given in the following table:

	Total number of awards made under the CICS	*Value of cases (£)*
1996-97	8379	19,103,717
1997-98	31360	77,715,031
1998-99	39991	110,199,398
1999-00	39524	114,516,357
2000-01	36759	110,504,614
2001-02	39642	125,369,845
2002-03	42149	156,193,338
2003-04	41218	169,505,874
2004-05	35352	163,822,052
2005-06	33697	158,483,206
2006-07	31407	161,032,977
2007-08	39091	188,791,784
2008-09	36461	231,435,833

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 62W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282329]

Mr. Wills: None of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Justice paid any interest to suppliers under the late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years, (from April 2006 through to March 2009). Although the Ministry of Justice was only formed in May 2007 the figures provided for the three-year period requested are correct, as any payments made under this Act must be disclosed in the audited annual report and accounts of each individual body. No such disclosures were made. Copies of these documents are held in the Library of the House of Commons.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 76W, on departmental catering, what the level of subsidy for provision of food and drink to the Ministry of Justice headquarters estate was in financial year 2007-08. [278266]

Mr. Straw: The subsidy for the provision of food and drink to the Ministry of Justice estate was £180,000 for the financial year 2007-08.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278738]

Mr. Straw: Ministry of Justice (MO J) central records for the financial year 2008-09, show that no officials have been disciplined or dismissed for breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281089]

Mr. Straw: The total number of centrally recorded information security breaches/incidents occurring within the last five reporting years for the Department (created May 2007) and its predecessor (the Department for Constitutional Affairs) are as follows:

MOJ/DCA	*Number*
2008-09	1,316
2007-08	563
2006-07	365
2005-06	337
2004-05	241

These totals include both IT and general information breaches/incidents. For the years prior to 2008-09, these figures include agencies and NDPBs, and to obtain a breakdown would involve disproportionate cost.

Our records now enable us to break down the 2008-09 figure, which comprises 394 information breaches and 922 IT incidents. The 394 includes the following agency breakdown:

	Number
HMCS	34
Tribunals Service	61
Office of the Public Guardian	3
NOMS	106

NOMS was formerly part of the Home Office, and figures for incidents prior to May 2007 are held by the Home Office.

My Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts. Only two of the information incidents in 2008-09 were assessed to be significant and nine in 2007-08.

Although, the last two reporting years has seen a 43 per cent. increase in reported information and IT security related breaches/incidents, much of this is the result of the implementation of a robust information assurance programme. This has included the need for all areas to apply procedures for reporting information security incidents, including the identification and investigation of the departure, however minor, from all security procedures. The result is an evidently improving information security management system.

Where incidents involve the inadvertent disclosure of personal data these now include the requirement to involve managers and senior civil servants within an hour of any potential disclosure being identified. The circumstances surrounding each potential incident are investigated and where appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much it cost to produce each of his Department's publications in each of the last three years. [280769]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies produce a wide range of internal and external publications each year, including annual reports and consultation papers, public information material for the public and ministerial vision statements. External publications can be found on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications.htm

It is not possible to identify expenditure on all types of publications without incurring disproportionate cost as this would involve examination of a large number of transactions across a range of accounting categories. The following figures, though not comprehensive, reflect the majority of expenditure incurred by the Ministry and its executive agencies on external publications:

	£
2008-09	
Ministry of Justice HQ	623,061
HM Courts Service	95,491
Tribunals Service	49,316
Office of the Public Guardian	150,994
The National Offender Management Service	30,331
Total	949,193
2007-08	
Ministry of Justice HQ	457,954
HM Courts Service	131,676
Tribunals Service	53,100
Office of the Public Guardian	307,650
The National Offender Management Service	21,777
Office of the Criminal Justice Reform	176,311
Total	1,148,469

The Ministry's predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), which excluded the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, incurred the following expenditure on publications:

	£
2006-07	
DCA HQ	837,544
HM Courts Service	161,260
Tribunals Service	125,554
Office of the Public Guardian	67,576
Total	1,191,934

The Ministry has a contract with TSO to supply the Department with a large proportion of external publications. The figures quoted above for the Ministry of Justice HQ, HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service figures represent expenditure with TSO only. The Ministry's publications via TSO can be found at:

http://www.tso.co.uk/about/whoAreWe/

The figures provided for the National Offender Management Service (including HM Prison Service and the 42 local probation boards) include publication expenditure for their business plans, annual reports and annual accounts only. To collate the expenditure for all NOMS agency publications would incur disproportionate cost.

The Office of the Public Guardian figures include both in-house and TSO expenditure.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281861]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by manually examining each piece of legislation the Ministry of Justice has introduced at a disproportionate cost. On the basis of the information provided by MoJ policy experts, it appears that of the 280 statutory instruments laid by the MoJ since its creation in May 2007, two of these were partially concerned with meeting obligations arising from EU legislation.

Land Titles

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there is a *(a)* statutory or *(b)* other limit on the amount of time made available for the Lord Chancellor to defend land title guarantees at tribunal. [281420]

Bridget Prentice: The Lord Chancellor is not required to defend land title guarantees in proceedings before the adjudicator to HM Land Registry.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent from the public purse on legal aid for judicial review cases in each of the last five years. [282184]

Bridget Prentice: Legal aid cash expenditure for judicial review cases in each of the past five years is shown in the following table.

Judicial review cases expenditure

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2004-05	12.7
2005-06	12.5
2006-07	11.5
2007-08	13.7
2008-09	14.9

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are limits on the amount an expert witness may charge in legal aid cases. [282186]

Bridget Prentice: In Crown court cases, discretionary guideline rates apply to specified types of expert witness. There are no fees set for other types of expert witnesses in criminal cases or for any expert in civil cases. These are assessed against knowledge of local market rates on a case by case basis. Providers are required to obtain at least two quotes and choose the best option in terms of the service they provide and the fees charged.

The recent "Civil Bid Rounds for 2010 Contracts" consultation and the "Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010" consultation included proposals to control spending on experts' fees by removing experts' cancellation fees and administration costs from the scope of public funding and capping the pay rates for experts' travel and waiting time.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently finalising the official consultation response on the "Civil Bid Rounds for 2010 Contracts" consultation which will set out the final proposals regarding experts' fees. It is currently due to be published by the end of June and will apply to all civil publicly funded cases.

Legal Services Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure the Legal Services Commission has incurred on expert witnesses in *(a)* family law cases and *(b)* criminal law cases funded through legal aid in each of the last five years. [282185]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record separately the amounts paid to expert witnesses from funds granted by the LSC. Payments to expert witnesses form part of the overall disbursement paid to legal services providers.

Magistrates Courts

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken between charge and trial of a defendant tried in a magistrates court has been in each year since 2000. [282006]

Bridget Prentice: Table 1 shows the estimated average time from charge/laying of information to start of trial in the magistrates courts for England and Wales in all criminal cases since 2001. Table 2 below shows the estimated average time from charge to start of trial for charge cases only. Results for 2000 have not been supplied, due to differences in data collection methods and business rules.

Table 1. charge and summons cases, estimated number of days in all criminal cases between charge/laying of information and start of trial for defendants in England and Wales, 2001 to 2009

	Estimated time from charge/laying of information to start of trial (days)	*Margin of error (+/- number of days)*	*Number of defendants in the sample*
2001	69	1	13,983
2002	65	1	19,888
2003	67	1	21,479
2004	72	1	20,228
2005	70	1	20,657
2006	74	1	19,283
2007	73	1	18,583
2008	70	1	16,853
2009	65	2	9,504

Notes:

1. Results taken from time intervals survey, a quarterly, one week survey, primarily used to measure timeliness in the magistrates courts
2. Two surveys (March and September) have been used for each year, except for 2009 where only March is available
3. Results shown for cases in which start of trial date is provided
4. Results include trials in which a defendant pleads not guilty and is tried summarily in absence
5. Results for 2000 have not been supplied, due to differences in data collection methods and business rules
6. The margin of error is a precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error

Table 2. charged cases only—estimated number of days for charged cases only between charge and start of trial for defendants in England and Wales, 2001 to 2009

	Estimated time from charge/laying of information to start of trial (days)	*Margin of error (+/- number of days)*	*Number of defendants in the sample*
2001	105	3	4,347
2002	103	3	5,196
2003	111	2	5,765
2004	123	3	5,880
2005	125	3	5,858
2006	126	3	5,854

Table 2. charged cases only—estimated number of days for charged cases only between charge and start of trial for defendants in England and Wales, 2001 to 2009

	Estimated time from charge/laying of information to start of trial (days)	*Margin of error (+/- number of days)*	*Number of defendants in the sample*
2007	120	3	5,411
2008	102	3	5,050
2009	103	8	1,321

Notes:

1. Results taken from time intervals survey, a quarterly, one week survey, primarily used to measure timeliness in the magistrates courts
2. Four surveys (March, June, September and December) have been used for each year, except for 2009 where only March is available
3. Results shown for cases in which start of trial date is provided
4. Results include trials in which a defendant pleads not guilty and is tried summarily in absence
5. Results for 2000 have not been supplied, due to differences in data collection methods and business rules
6. The margin of error is a precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error

Parliamentary Standards Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals are to be appointed to the Parliamentary Standards Authority; by what process the appointments will be made; what criteria for appointment will apply; whether there is to be provision for their remuneration; and for what period such appointments would be made. [277698]

Barbara Keeley: I have been asked to reply.

The proposed arrangements for appointment and remuneration of members of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority are set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Standards Bill [Bill 121] as published.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* establishment and *(b)* running costs of the proposed new Parliamentary Standards Authority (PSA); and whether the PSA will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [280177]

Barbara Keeley: I have been asked to reply.

Cross-party discussions on the form of the new authority are ongoing. The Government's proposal on the classification of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act is published in the Parliamentary Standards Bill.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trainee probation officers are expected to complete training in 2009. [280833]

Mr. Straw: The number expected to complete their training in 2009 is 513. It is too soon to give an accurate picture of the number of TPO graduates who will be offered jobs. All probation areas are looking closely at their budgets and work force needs to ensure as many trainees as possible are offered employment.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of trainee probation officers who will not be offered employment in each region in 2009. [280834]

Mr. Straw: A recent survey of the 42 probation areas, who are the employers, has shown that it is too soon to be certain how many of these graduates will be offered jobs in the Probation Service. The regional Directors of Offender Management have been asked to review the position of their local probation boards and trusts to ensure that decisions about TPO employment are based on credible workforce plans that take full account of the staffing requirements of the next three years within the region and elsewhere in the country.

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the feasibility studies carried out by his Department on quantifying re-offending rates among former prisoners of each prison in England and Wales. [281157]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a feasibility study to investigate this issue. This study aims to determine whether meaningful data on the reoffending of former prisoners from individual institutions can be produced. We aim to complete this work by the end of the financial year 2009-10. Once this work has been completed, it will need to go through the normal analytical quality assurance process to determine how this could be suitably published.

Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1442W, on Victim Support Schemes, (1) how many of the organisations he wrote to have successfully applied for funding for 2009-10; [282265]

(2) how many organisations which had not previously received funding from his Department applied for funding for 2009-10; and how many such applications have been approved by his Department. [282266]

Mr. Straw: The 2008-09 grants from the Victims Fund for organisations supporting victims of sexual violence have been renewed for this financial year (2009-10). All 39 organisations that we wrote to about the grant renewal process received a grant for this year.

Organisations that had not received previous funding were eligible to apply to the Victims Fund homicide round. 18 applications were received and of these 12 had not received previous funding from the Victims Fund. This is now closed and grant awards will be made shortly by the Home Office.

The Home Office has launched the hate crime section of the Victims Fund for the financial year 2009-10. This round is currently open for applications and organisations that have not received previous funding are eligible to apply.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report,* column 1442W, on victim support schemes, how many organisations that he wrote to have applied for funding from his Department for 2009-10; and when he expects funding to be awarded to successful applicants; [281478]

(2) whether organisations which had not previously received funding from his Department were able to apply for funding for 2009-10; and when he expects funding to be awarded to successful applicants. [281479]

Mr. Straw: The 2008-9 grants from the Victims Fund for organisations supporting victims of sexual violence have been renewed for this financial year. All the 39 organisations that we wrote to about the grant renewal process received a grant for this year.

Organisations that have not received previous funding were eligible to apply to the Victims Fund homicide round. This is now closed and grant awards will be made shortly by the Home Office. The Victims Fund hate crime will be made shortly by the Home Office. The Victims Fund hate crime round is currently open for applications and organisations that have not received previous funding are eligible to apply.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 30 June 2009

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympic tennis events at Wimbledon. [281644]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications for funding were received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of projects in *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) the East of England and (ii) Castle Point in each year since the scheme's inception. [281855]

Joan Ruddock: The following number of grant applications for funding were received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of projects in *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) the East of England region and (ii) Castle Point in each year since the scheme's inception.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—Phase 1

East of England

(Communities and Stream 2 A)

Applications received (including withdrawn, rejected, expired)

	2006				2007					
Organisation	*July*	*August*	*September*	*November*	*January*	*March*	*April*	*June*	*September*	*Total*
Hospital									1	1
School	1	1	1			1			3	7
Other		1	2	1	4	1	3	3	3	18
Total	1	2	3	1	4	2	3	3	7	26

Castle Point

We are unable to check results at local borough level. However, applications under all streams of phase 1 have been checked against the towns in the following table which make up the local borough area, and no applications were submitted (Convey Island, Benfleet, Thundersley and Hadleigh).

There were no applications from Castle Point.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—Phase 2

East of England

Organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Hospital	—	2	—	2
School	24	42	5	71
Other public buildings	10	12	4	26

There were no applications from Castle Point.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent under each budget heading on its consultation on the term carbon neutral; and how many civil servants in each pay band have worked on that consultation. [282020]

Joan Ruddock: The consultation in question sought views on a definition of the term 'carbon neutral' and on practical guidance on applying the definition, including recommendations on what constitutes good practice. Departmental expenditure on the consultation related to administration costs only. Salary costs have been estimated at between £35,000 and £40,000. Work on the consultation was carried out by one official in pay range D with a small amount of support from staff at pay ranges C and H. Other costs relate solely to stationery and are estimated at less than £50.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1115W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 since his Department was established. [282324]

Joan Ruddock: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority are unable to separately identify interest paid under the Act since DECC was created due to systems constraints. None of the Department's other non-departmental public bodies have paid interest under the Act.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many breaches of information security there have been at his Department since its creation. [281096]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no breaches of information security in the Department.

The Department and its agencies will report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on any personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266881]

Mr. Kidney: Since DECC's inception, BERR and DEFRA manage the Department's estate. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 84W, and by my hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 401-02W.

DECC has identified and is implementing a number of measures aimed at increasing energy efficiency at its HQ, in line with Good Practice Guide 286—Energy Performance in the Government's Civil Estate.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from its inception to 2008-09. [280514]

Joan Ruddock: As at 30 March 2009 the Department used approximately 1,066,912 kWh of electricity and 570,944 kWh of gas since its inception. This is based on average daily usage. DECC has no agencies.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281515]

Joan Ruddock: DECC does not currently have a central system for monitoring internships. However, a trawl of all directorates has revealed that there are currently no paid or unpaid graduate internships in the Department.

Electric Cables

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of placing underground *(a)* new and *(b)* existing electricity transmission lines; [282406]

(2) when his Department last assessed the need to retain all parts of the overhead electricity transmission and distribution network; and if he will make a statement. [282414]

Mr. Kidney: Any such assessments are a matter for Ofgem and the network operators and would be carried out as part of the price control review mechanism through which the transmission and distribution network companies are regulated.

Energy Supply

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he and other Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* Ofgem, *(b)* energy suppliers and *(c)* energy consumer groups or representatives since October 2008 in the last 12 months. [283278]

Mr. Kidney: In order to inform the development and support delivery of policy the Secretary of State and Ministers have met on a regular basis with a broad range of companies, interest groups and the regulator since the creation of DECC in October 2008.

Energy: Consumers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between consumer awareness of energy efficiency and consumer behaviour adopting energy-efficiency practices. [282603]

Joan Ruddock: DECC takes account of externally available research about consumer awareness of energy use and energy efficiency and effects on behaviour, in order to inform its policy development.

DECC is co-funding the Energy Demand Research Project, which is enabling the Government, energy suppliers and others to test through a variety of interventions how electricity and gas customers respond to better information about their consumption. The project explores the impact on energy consumption and energy efficiency of smart meters in combination with awareness raising tools including real-time display devices and additional billing information, as well as the provision of energy efficiency information and community engagement.

Entec UK

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract his Department has with Entec UK environmental consultants. [280356]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has two contracts with Entec:

(a) Appraisal of Sustainability of five energy National Planning Statements (a requirement of the Planning Act 2008) and

(b) Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Framework for the Development of Clean Coal (a requirement of Directive 2001/42/EC—the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' directive).

The value of both of these contracts is considered commercially sensitive.

Mike Anderson

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what position Mike Anderson holds within his Department. [281307]

Joan Ruddock: Mike Anderson no longer holds a position in the Department.

Nuclear Power Stations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for the confirmation of planning permissions for the next generation of nuclear power stations. [280647]

Mr. Kidney: The Office for Nuclear Development has published an indicative timeline for the new nuclear build programme on their website. It sets out at a strategic level how the key parts of the new nuclear programme fit together.

The timeline shows we expect to publish and consult on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) in the autumn of this year. We expect the Nuclear NPS to be designated in the spring of next year and the IPC will be ready to receive applications shortly after this.

The indicative timeline can be viewed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/nuclear/index.html

Radioactive Fallout: Exemptions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will allocate funds to pay the subsistence and accommodation expenses of the expert stakeholders invited to attend the workshop on proposals for a future exemptions regime under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and draft Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010, to be held in Manchester on 9 July. [282434]

Mr. Kidney: The Department will reimburse reasonable travel costs and will consider accommodation costs on a case by case basis. The timing and location of the workshop has been chosen to help stakeholders participate from across the UK.

Warm Front Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average waiting time between successful application to the Warm Front scheme and the installation of the efficiency measures was in each year since the scheme was established. [266158]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The average waiting times since the start of the current Scheme in 2005 until 28 February 2009 are detailed in the following table. These waiting times are within the Department's contractual guidelines, which state that heating measures will be installed within 120 days of survey and insulation measures within 40 days.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Heating				
Installation	66.0 days	81.9 days	63.8 days	64.7 days
Insulation				
Installation	28.2 days	32.7 days	27.4 days	35.8 days

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated for broadcasting in West Derbyshire to implement proposals contained in the Digital Britain White Paper. [283197]

Mr. Simon: The White Paper sets out various proposals in respect of broadcasting. The Government will shortly be consulting on how to secure and fund essential public service content and it is too early to say how this will be allocated or which regions may benefit.

National Lottery: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Lottery funding has been allocated to organisations in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby in each of the last five years; and which organisations received such funding. [282524]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the value of lottery grants awarded to organisations in Merseyside and Crosby in the same years, along with the total amount of lottery grants awarded in the last five years. Merseyside is taken to be the boroughs of Knowsley, Liverpool, St. Helens, Sefton and Wirral.

	£
2004-05	
Total lottery money awarded	1,631,700,181
Total lottery money to Merseyside	40,285,448
Total lottery money to Crosby	350,989
2005-06	
Total lottery money awarded	1,249,237,162
Total lottery money to Merseyside	21,783,707
Total lottery money to Crosby	155,174
2006-07	
Total lottery money awarded	909,785,678
Total lottery money to Merseyside	31,383,133
Total lottery money to Crosby	123,348
2007-08	
Total lottery money awarded	1,550,673,214

5

	£
Total lottery money to Merseyside	23,624,868
Total lottery money to Crosby	649,309
2008-09	
Total lottery money awarded	920,814,373
Total lottery money to Merseyside	20,194,869
Total lottery money to Crosby	127,807

These statistics have been prepared using the Department's lottery grants database. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

I have arranged for a list to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses of organisations in Merseyside and Crosby that received lottery awards in those years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies spent in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282330]

Mr. Woodward: This is an operational matter for the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) of the Northern Ireland Office, which operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Gentleman to write to the NDPB chief executives.

A list of these NDPBs is available on page 7 of the Northern Ireland Office departmental report, published in June 2009.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280552]

Mr. Woodward: The Director of Resources, Anthony Harbinson, takes responsibility for sustainable development matters, including energy efficiency.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on the maintenance of his Departmental website in each year since 2007. [282275]

Paul Goggins: The cost of maintaining the Northern Ireland Office website (www.nio.gov.uk) is detailed in the following table.

Northern Ireland Office website maintenance costs

	£
2008-09	4,227
2007-08	4,308

Departmental Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether it is his policy to seek to increase the number of Catholic staff in his Department. [282290]

Mr. Woodward: All appointments to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are made on merit.

The Northern Ireland Office's Diversity Delivery Plan 2008-10 includes:

> "Our aim is to ensure that representation of Protestants and Catholics in the NIO is comparable to the wider NI civil service."

The plan highlights the fact that Catholic representation has continued to make steady progress from 25 per cent. in 1997 to 35 per cent. in 2008.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279394]

Mr. Woodward: In the past 12 months the Northern Ireland Office special advisers have not attended any training courses.

Northern Ireland Act 2009

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters his Department received *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against the Northern Ireland Bill of Session 2008-09 before its enactment. [282292]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office did not receive any letters either in favour or against the Northern Ireland Act 2009 before it was enacted.

Parades

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Parades Commission on parades to take place on 12 July 2009. [282301]

Mr. Woodward: I hold regular discussions with the Parades Commission on a range of parades related matters, including forthcoming parades. The Parades Commission remains the final arbiter of parades and is independent of Government.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to her Department's press notice of 6 April 2009, on recruitment and training subsidies, how many businesses have received a recruitment subsidy; and how many individuals have returned to employment as a result. [274347]

Jim Knight: The recruitment subsidy was introduced on 6 April 2009 and data are only starting to feed through. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish official statistics from autumn 2009.

Carers Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people of pensionable age who are eligible for carers allowance but disqualified because of the overlapping benefit rule; and what the estimated cost is of paying the allowance to them. [280496]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of people over state pension age who are entitled to carer's allowance but not receiving any payment because of the overlapping benefit rule is 362,350. The estimated maximum annual cost of paying carer's allowance to pensioners who are subject to the overlap is around £1 billion.

Notes:

1. This estimate does not include people who do not make a claim for carer's allowance, as we have no way of calculating how many there are.

2. It should be noted that unless major changes to rules on how carer's allowance is treated within pension credit were to be introduced, the overall Exchequer cost of such a measure would be smaller due to the offsetting reduction in pension credit expenditure.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281063]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 815W-16W.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by her Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281936]

Jim Knight: The Department has a contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation with Telereal Trillium which includes catering and food procurement. Annually, 63 per cent. of meat, 33 per cent. of fruit (100 per cent. when seasonably available) and 62 per cent. of vegetables procured by the Department's supplier is produced in the UK.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which her Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281858]

Jim Knight: To date during the 2008-09 session, the Department has been responsible for 61 Statutory Instruments and two Government Bills (including six S.I.s from the Health and Safety Executive), some of which consolidated and revoked previous instruments. The Department estimates that around 5 per cent. of these (three Statutory Instruments, including one from the Health and Safety Executive) give effect to obligations arising from EU legislation.

Electronic Government: Operating Costs

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Directgov has cost in each year since its inception. [282044]

Jim Knight: The costs for Directgov in each financial year since 2004 are set out in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	5.1
2005-06	10.5
2006-07	12.8
2007-08	13.9
2008-09	30.7

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what funding she has allocated for the implementation of progression to work pathfinders; [255131]

(2) from what source funding for the implementation of the progression to work pathfinders will come; [255132]

(3) how many additional jobcentre staff are planned to implement the progression to work pathfinders. [255133]

Jim Knight: The impact assessment associated with the White Paper 'Raising Expectations and Increasing Support—reforming welfare for the future' estimated that the increase in work-focused interviews and provision to support work and skills-related activity could cost up to an extra £20 million a year for parents with younger children. For employment and support allowance customers we are assessing the appropriate balance between provision of the service by Jobcentre Plus and providers. Additional costs will be met from within the current agreed Department spending plans.

A cadre of skilled and capable personal advisers will be absolutely essential to effectively implement the Progression to Work model. Our discussion document 'Realising Potential: developing personalised conditionality and support' made clear that that it will be necessary to think through the implications for the adviser role and implement a work force development strategy for Jobcentre Plus staff. This is an issue we will discuss in detail with stakeholders. Until pathfinder locations are decided final decisions cannot be made on the number of personal advisers necessary to deliver the Progression to Work pathfinders.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many firms her Department has made payments to under the employers' golden hello scheme since the scheme's inception; and how many employees have been recruited under the scheme. [278304]

Jim Knight: The recruitment subsidy was introduced on 6 April 2009 as part of the six-month offer of extra support for jobseekers and data are only starting to feed through. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish Official Statistics from autumn 2009.

Employment Schemes: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of people aged *(a)* over 50 years and *(b)* between 18 and 25 years in employment in (i) Tameside, (ii) Stockport and (iii) Greater Manchester. [277499]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

A major factor in the employment of older people is employer behaviour. In addition to providing generic good practice guidance to employers, the UK's Age Positive initiative is working in partnership with business leaders to develop sector-based models of flexible retirement to support the increased employment and retention of older workers and the removal of fixed retirement ages.

Our plans for the future include providing guidance to older workers on their options for working longer, encouraging employers to increase flexible work and phased retirement opportunities, a review of the Default Retirement Age in 2011—if it is found to be no longer needed it will be removed, and monitoring the impact of the economic downturn, identifying which groups are being most affected and further increasing help where it is most needed.

For young people who are in danger of slipping into long-term unemployment, funding was provided in the Budget for the Young Person's Guarantee; a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or meaningful activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds who reach the 12-month stage of their claim to jobseeker's allowance. At the discretion of the Jobcentre Plus adviser, parts of this guaranteed offer could also be extended to people over 24 who face significant barriers in the labour market.

As part of the Young Person's Guarantee, the Future Jobs Fund will help create up to 100,000 new jobs. It will also help create up to 50,000 new jobs in areas of high unemployment, and is available to all people of working age claiming out of work benefits. We expect the Young Person's Guarantee to be available from January 2010 but we want to get Future Jobs Fund jobs up and running as soon as possible—with some places starting as early as October this year.

In addition to this, on 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers of all ages, including information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills. Extra help for those who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months was also introduced, including opportunities to volunteer, support to become self-employed, recruitment subsidies and work-focused training.

Since last autumn, the Department has also quadrupled the available funding for the Rapid Response Service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. It has also extended Local Employment Partnerships, the Adviser Discretion Fund and Access to Work so they are available to customers from the first day of their claim, alongside the support they receive from their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser. This help is available to customers of all ages to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of finding work.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal across Phase 1 areas from October 2010 will give providers the freedom to offer personalised, tailored support to everyone who has been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months, helping them overcome their individual barriers to work. Greater Manchester East and West and Greater Manchester Central districts are included in Phase 1 of the New Jobseeker's Regime and Flexible New Deal and are also pilot districts for Integrated Employment and Skills.

Across the whole of the Greater Manchester area, Jobcentre Plus also promotes a range of partner provision to enhance the confidence, skills and employability of all of our customers, including those aged 18 to 24 and 50+.

Employment Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus staff on referrals to *(a)* the newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres and *(b)* the newly unemployed professional and executive support delivered through commercial employment provision; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that guidance. [271715]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question of 24 April about what guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus staff on referrals to *(a)* the newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres and *(b)* the newly unemployed professional and executive support delivered through commercial employment provision. This is something that falls within my responsibilities as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The guidance issued to Jobcentre Plus staff on referrals to newly unemployed support delivered by Programme Centres and commercial employment provision has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints regarding Jobcentre Plus have been received in each month of the last two years. [271622]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints regarding Jobcentre Plus have been received in each month for the last two years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The information requested is in the following table below.

	Total customer complaints
April 2007	3,906
May 2007	4,268
June 2007	3,972
July 2007	4,187
August 2007	4,345
September 2007	3,547
October 2007	4,144
November 2007	3,946
December 2007	3,093
January 2008	3,822
February 2008	3,520
March 2008	3,102
April 2008	3,373
May 2008	2,950
June 2008	3,637
July 2008	4,064
August 2008	3,608
September 2008	3,652
October 2008	4,051
November 2008	3,493
December 2008	3,294
January 2009	3,860
February 2009	4,219
March 2009	5,001

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

By way of context to these figures, Jobcentre Plus currently has over four and a half million customers. Every working day, Jobcentre Plus conducts 45,000 adviser interviews, processes over 18,000 new benefit claims, and Contact Centres receive over 93,000 calls.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers have been working in each Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last two years. [242176]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers have been working in each Jobcentre Plus District in each month of the last two years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information showing the number of personal advisers in each Jobcentre Plus District in each month from November 2006 to October 2008 is in the attached tables. This information will be placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus personal advisers by month and district November 2006 to March 2007

	2006		2007		
	November	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	167	167	167	167	164
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	151	151	150	150	151
Essex	206	205	201	201	194
Norfolk	114	112	111	113	110
Derbyshire	134	134	136	137	137
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	163	162	165	165	163
Lincolnshire and Rutland	69	67	69	70	70
Nottinghamshire	138	137	135	135	135
Central London	153	161	162	154	157
City and East London	213	211	210	203	198
Lambeth Southwark and Wandsworth	206	214	215	207	208
North and North East London	344	340	333	330	324
South London	342	337	348	347	347
West London	291	290	290	291	292
Northumbria	198	220	208	210	188
South Tyne and Wear Valley	186	186	185	184	183
Tees Valley	160	160	161	161	159
Cheshire and Warrington	95	94	95	93	92
Cumbria	84	76	75	75	75
Greater Manchester Central	216	209	210	211	203
Greater Manchester East and West	270	272	278	280	274
Greater Mersey	166	162	161	162	162
Lancashire	257	258	257	261	263
Liverpool and Wirral	192	195	194	194	191

Jobcentre Plus personal advisers by month and district November 2006 to March 2007

	2006		2007		
	November	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	148	147	151	150	147
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	141	142	143	141	138
Forth Valley Fife and Tayside	194	194	191	188	186
Glasgow	174	164	166	160	157
Highland Islands Clyde Coast and Grampian	193	195	201	195	192
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	159	159	159	160	155
Berks Bucks and Oxfordshire	159	159	162	161	160
Hampshire	187	183	175	169	162
Kent	196	203	200	201	202
Surrey and Sussex	229	227	228	233	228
Devon and Cornwall	231	228	228	224	210
Dorset and Somerset	127	127	126	120	121
Gloucestershire Wiltshire and Swindon	121	118	117	121	119
West of England	143	142	145	148	147
North and Mid Wales	103	101	100	100	98
South East Wales	136	137	137	137	134
South Wales Valleys	132	132	130	125	125
South West Wales	122	123	126	122	124
Birmingham and Solihull	252	256	262	263	263
Black Country	231	223	221	229	215
Coventry and Warwickshire	92	93	94	93	91
Staffordshire	139	133	142	142	141
The Marches	138	137	140	140	138
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	239	239	237	235	232
South Yorkshire	239	233	226	224	219
West Yorkshire	357	352	355	354	349

Personal advisers by month and district April 2007 to March 2008

	2007					
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	165	165	166	168	166	164
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	148	147	147	147	147	148
Essex	193	195	196	197	199	200
Norfolk	108	109	106	104	103	109
Derbyshire	179	173	172	162	162	166
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	171	168	170	170	174	175
Lincolnshire and Rutland	68	69	69	70	70	69
Nottinghamshire	138	140	139	138	139	141
Central London	154	154	153	150	151	154
City and East London	203	199	188	192	194	200
Lambeth Southwark and Wandsworth	218	213	209	209	210	210
North and North East London	357	355	354	338	333	333
South London	390	387	388	395	393	399
West London	274	277	275	267	263	264
Northumbria	217	222	223	219	221	219
South Tyne and Wear Valley	236	229	231	234	232	235
Tees Valley	165	164	161	160	163	159
Cheshire Halton and Warrington	131	132	133	131	128	129
Cumbria and Lancashire	356	356	352	352	330	340
Greater Manchester Central	236	241	233	230	228	231
Greater Manchester East and West	274	270	267	268	271	281
Merseyside	367	361	362	362	363	348
Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	151	150	150	149	148	150
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	139	138	135	136	139	138
Forth Valley Fife and Tayside	194	195	195	193	191	194
Glasgow	156	157	153	154	156	155
Highland Islands Clyde Coast and Grampian	205	206	206	204	203	198
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	159	156	154	157	155	158
Berks Bucks and Oxfordshire	165	166	164	170	171	172
Hampshire	163	159	160	161	158	160
Kent	197	197	198	193	191	194
Surrey and Sussex	220	219	219	223	220	222

Personal advisers by month and district April 2007 to March 2008

	2007					
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Devon and Cornwall	212	212	214	209	214	216
Dorset and Somerset	147	145	143	144	141	140
Gloucestershire Wiltshire and Swindon	119	120	118	118	117	117
West of England	147	143	142	143	143	136
North and Mid Wales	99	101	104	103	103	104
South East Wales	131	131	135	130	131	130
South Wales Valleys	156	155	154	154	155	154
South West Wales	142	140	140	141	140	139
Birmingham and Solihull	265	265	264	260	261	279
Black Country	223	220	221	225	225	223
Coventry and Warwickshire	91	92	92	95	95	95
Staffordshire	150	149	150	150	153	151
The Marches	133	134	130	129	135	136
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	247	243	242	241	242	244
South Yorkshire	238	242	239	245	242	255
West Yorkshire	360	360	370	379	381	384

	2007			2008		
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	165	168	169	168	166	163
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	149	152	152	153	152	147
Essex	199	202	200	199	197	196
Norfolk	107	107	108	110	109	108
Derbyshire	161	156	153	151	151	149
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	181	182	186	190	188	186
Lincolnshire and Rutland	68	67	73	75	76	75
Nottinghamshire	140	143	142	141	139	138
Central London	151	151	149	151	143	136
City and East London	201	199	199	197	200	199
Lambeth Southwark and Wandsworth	206	204	203	208	214	216
North and North East London	332	326	324	323	328	336
South London	377	351	340	339	331	332
West London	254	262	263	261	259	257
Northumbria	211	206	208	212	209	204
South Tyne and Wear Valley	236	240	240	244	241	233
Tees Valley	160	167	166	169	164	157
Cheshire Halton and Warrington	130	130	129	127	125	126
Cumbria and Lancashire	342	344	345	335	332	331
Greater Manchester Central	231	226	224	208	207	209
Greater Manchester East and West	281	282	289	293	295	290
Merseyside	346	346	342	349	338	333
Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	151	149	149	150	150	148
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	140	133	132	127	126	125
Forth Valley Fife and Tayside	193	191	193	190	186	184
Glasgow	160	161	161	161	159	158
Highland Islands Clyde Coast and Grampian	198	201	198	198	196	193
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	159	156	154	153	152	147
Berks Bucks and Oxfordshire	170	168	170	174	179	178
Hampshire	166	168	169	169	165	168
Kent	196	202	203	205	204	204
Surrey and Sussex	216	215	209	209	208	204
Devon and Cornwall	214	217	221	219	217	213
Dorset and Somerset	138	137	136	138	135	133
Gloucestershire Wiltshire and Swindon	119	120	121	119	118	119
West of England	134	131	130	129	129	128
North and Mid Wales	104	104	104	102	103	103
South East Wales	130	134	131	130	131	127
South Wales Valleys	154	152	148	146	145	143
South West Wales	137	135	133	132	135	136
Birmingham and Solihull	298	296	294	296	294	296
Black Country	231	233	231	233	230	230
Coventry and Warwickshire	98	103	103	104	102	104

	2007			2008		
	October	November	December	January	February	March
Staffordshire	150	150	156	151	147	146
The Marches	129	133	130	129	131	133
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	243	236	243	251	248	249
South Yorkshire	254	260	265	262	265	258
West Yorkshire	380	381	393	398	400	395

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the expected additional on-flows onto jobseeker's allowance owing to the *(a)* introduction of the employment and support allowance and *(b)* winding up of the income support scheme in each quarter in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [277220]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Information about the estimated additional on-flows to jobseeker's allowance as a result of employment and support allowance replacing incapacity benefit for new claims from October 2008 is in the following table.

Estimated on-flows to jobseeker's allowance

	Number
May 2009	3,000
August 2009	3,000
November 2009	2,000
February 2010	3,000
May 2010	3,000
August 2010	3,000
November 2010	3,000
February 2011	3,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

There are currently no plans to move any groups off Income Support in the quarters referred to other than lone parents with older children.

Local Employment Partnerships

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each age group have been placed in employment through the Local Employment Partnership scheme in the last six months. [278262]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Figures for people moving into work through the Local Employment Partnership scheme by age group are not available.

Jobcentre Plus's administrative records show that more than 100,000 people were helped into work through Local Employment Partnerships in the six months from November 2008 to the end of April 2009.

New Deal for Young People: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Suffolk registered for the New Deal for Young People in the last 12 months. [273249]

Jim Knight: In the 12 months up to and including November 2008 1,410 people entered the New Deal for Young People (NDYP) in Suffolk. This figure represents the number of individuals to have started NDYP for the most recent year available.

The figure is rounded to the nearest 10. It should be noted that some individuals may have started the New Deal more than once.

Poverty: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency were in relative poverty in each of the last five years. [282475]

Jim Knight: Poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. Therefore, information for Merseyside and the Crosby constituency is not available.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit offices were in operation in each year since 1998; and how many offices scheduled for closure in each such year had the closure suspended. [280916]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked Mel Groves to reply to your question asking how many benefit offices have been open in each year since 1998; and how many offices scheduled for closure in each such year had the closure suspended. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Information is only available on Jobcentre Plus offices since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency. I have attached a table at Annex 1 of the available information.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres. This high street presence is supported by 31 modern, industry standard, contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

Jobcentres continue to provide an essential service—especially to those customers most in need of tailored help. However, the great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line.

Wherever we have considered the closure of a public facing office we have undertaken a full consultation with local stakeholders, including MPs. When finalising our Service Delivery Plans, our District Managers take account of this consultation and may, in the light of that consultation, decide not to pursue closure. We do not retain records of offices that remain open following a consultation exercise, but, in the light of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years a decision was taken in November 2008 to suspend the closure of 25 Jobcentres which were being considered for closure. Three small offices in London, where closure had been previously announced, subsequently closed this year. There will be no new Jobcentre closures while the current economic conditions exist.

Annex 1

Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public now all modernised: 2002 to date[1]

Region	Currently	January							
		2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
East of England	57	57	66	67	72	84	85	90	90
East Midlands	53	53	54	56	69	71	75	83	83
London	74	77	80	90	114	121	132	138	139
North East	45	45	47	49	53	60	64	65	65
North West	97	97	104	112	129	139	153	160	160
Scotland	99	99	100	103	125	139	150	153	153
South East	74	74	77	82	97	107	121	123	123
South West	57	57	79	83	91	102	114	118	118
Wales	63	63	63	64	87	95	108	111	111
West Midlands	63	63	67	79	98	105	108	115	116
Yorkshire and the Humber	59	59	60	61	68	79	87	88	88
Totals of all regions	741	744	797	846	1,003	1,102	1,197	1,244	1,246

[1] Prior to implementing our network of Benefit Delivery Centres, from April 2006, many sites delivered both customer facing and benefit processing services. This table reflects the rationalisation of the former network of Employment Service and Benefit Agency offices right through to the current network where all offices are integrated Job Centre offices.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Environment Agency office in each of the last five years. [281627]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the information requested broken down by each Environment Agency region. It also includes figures for its head office. The information has been provided in this way because the Environment Agency has over 250 offices.

Analysis

Based on organisation region	Grouping	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Anglian	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	6	8	7	7	8
	Manager	43	37	40	42	45
	Specialist	21	21	21	25	33
	Executive support and administration staff	24	19	19	14	17
Midlands	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	8	8	9	8	8
	Manager	43	37	39	34	40
	Specialist	18	17	21	18	22
	Executive support and administration staff	12	16	15	12	14
North East	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	7	7	7	6	7
	Manager	38	34	36	39	39
	Specialist	20	22	22	23	19
	Executive support and administration staff	20	20	19	16	15
North West	Director	0	0	0	0	0

Analysis

Based on organisation region	*Grouping*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	Senior manager	7	7	6	6	7
	Manager	44	40	43	39	40
	Specialist	31	33	33	34	39
	Executive support and administration staff	9	10	10	9	10
Southern	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	7	6	7	7	6
	Manager	36	31	35	35	40
	Specialist	9	8	13	13	18
	Executive support and administration staff	8	8	8	9	10
South West	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	8	10	7	7	7
	Manager	44	33	33	37	34
	Specialist	12	12	16	14	18
	Executive support and administration staff	14	15	13	13	13
Thames	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	10	8	8	8	10
	Manager	56	59	71	73	77
	Specialist	30	30	41	37	35
	Executive support and administration staff	16	23	21	27	21
Wales	Director	0	0	0	0	0
	Senior manager	8	8	6	7	9
	Manager	51	55	59	59	59
	Specialist	19	24	26	28	35
	Executive support and administration staff	13	12	13	12	12
Head Office	Director	8	8	7	8	8
	Senior manager	74	87	95	96	99
	Manager	395	428	464	475	548
	Specialist	353	378	407	406	464
	Executive support and administration staff	99	95	86	79	73
Overall Total	Director	8	8	7	8	8
	Senior manager	135	149	152	152	161
	Manager	750	754	820	833	922
	Specialist	513	545	600	598	683
	Executive support and administration staff	215	218	204	191	185

Forests

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of the Forestry Commission England is on the re-creation of *(a)* lowland heathland and *(b)* other open habitats on its estate; and if he will make a statement. [282478]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission is leading a process to develop the policy on restoring and expanding open habitats such as lowland heathland from woods and forests in England. The Forestry Commission completed a public consultation on the open habitats policy in June 2009 which received over 170 responses. A report on the consultation will be published in the summer and I expect to receive recommendations on policy options in the autumn.

The approach followed on the public forest estate will then reflect our decisions on the policy options as well as and conclusions from the study of the long-term role of the Public Forest Estate announced in November 2008.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the area of plantation forest in the public forest estate which could be restored to *(a)* lowland heathland and *(b)* blanket bog. [282480]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission published the results of a survey of open habitats and open habitat potential on the public forest estate in May 2009. The survey shows that the area of plantation forest that could be restored to lowland heathland as 29,433 hectares and the area of plantation forest that could be restored to blanket bog as 1,794 hectares.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has of the area of *(a)* lowland heathland and *(b)* blanket bog which (i) Forestry Commission England and (ii) other public bodies have restored since 2005. [282481]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The area of lowland heathland and blanket bog restored by the Forestry Commission on the public forest estate since 2005 is 672 hectares and 315 hectares respectively. We do not hold the information centrally on other public bodies. However, Natural England has entered into Environmental Stewardship agreements with landowners to restore 12,763 hectares of lowland heathland and 24,795 hectares of blanket bog.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has submitted a bid for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. [283032]

Mr. Hain: Pay offers are not negotiated at Wales Office level as staff in the Wales Office are employed by the Ministry of Justice or the Welsh Assembly Government.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [283159]

Mr. Hain: As part of their duties a number of my officials (together with colleagues from the Welsh Assembly Government) have and continue to work towards maximising Wales' contribution to a successful London 2012.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Debts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government plan to introduce a *(a)* debt arrangement scheme and *(b)* low income low assets bankruptcy scheme. [281586]

Ian Lucas: Addressing financial problems at an early stage is essential to identifying a sustainable solution to an individual's problems. Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007 contained a series of measures to support those debtors for whom the current statutory provisions of bankruptcy and individual voluntary arrangements may not be the best option.

One of these was a low income, low asset bankruptcy scheme, which was introduce into the Insolvency Act 1986 on 6 April 2009 and is known as a Debt Relief Order (DRO).

The TCEA 2007 also contains powers for the Lord Chancellor to introduce statutory debt management schemes that could have similar features to the debt assistance scheme.

The implementation of part 5 of the TCEA 2007 is currently being reviewed and an announcement is expected to be made shortly.

Internet: Iran

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will restrict or prohibit the supply to Iran by UK companies of technologies capable of use to monitor, inspect or filter internet content. [282195]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* There are currently no plans to restrict further or prohibit the supply to Iran by UK companies of technologies capable of use to monitor, inspect or filter internet content. The export of these technologies would already be controlled if they employed cryptography or were specially designed for military use. In such cases, all export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and a licence would not be issued if to do so was inconsistent with the criteria. In particular a licence would not be issued if there was clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression.

Jordan: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage trade between Jordan and the UK. [282293]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provide a range of support services to UK companies wishing to trade with Jordan. These are detailed on the UKTI web pages.

Specific events that have been supported by UKTI in the last year to encourage trade between Jordan and the UK include:

two education events in October 2008 and February to promote the opportunities in Jordan to UK companies;

a trade mission with UK health care companies to Jordan in February;

a joint event with the Arab British Chamber of Commerce to promote the opportunities in Jordan to UK companies;

several regional Gulf events such as Arab Health and the Big 5 (construction) exhibitions where UK companies could access information about doing business in Jordan.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much trade there was between Jordan and the UK in the last five years. [282294]

Ian Lucas: The value of goods exported to Jordan in 2004 amounted to £161 million, in 2005 £186 million, in 2006 £160 million, in 2007 £164 million and in 2008 £210 million.

The value of goods imported from Jordan in 2004 amounted to £20 million, in 2005 £22 million, in 2006 £20 million, in 2007 £37 million and in 2008 £21 million.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on motor industry: government assistance, whether his Department has received applications for the provision of guarantees for European Investment Bank loans to UK automotive companies under the Automotive Assistance Programme. [274280]

Ian Lucas: The Government remain committed to providing guarantees, where appropriate, to help unlock up to £1.3 billion in European investment bank loans to UK automotive companies. While no guarantees have at this stage been provided, BIS is actively supporting the EIB applications of a number of UK automotive companies and stands ready to offer a guarantee where necessary and in accordance with the published criteria for the Automotive Assistance Programme.

Regulatory Policy Committee

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what date he has set for the appointment of members to his Department's proposed regulatory policy committee; and if he will make a statement. [282511]

Ian Lucas: Members will be appointed to the new Regulatory Policy Committee in the coming months.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* operation of his Department's proposed regulatory policy committee. [282513]

Ian Lucas: Estimates on the establishment and the operation of the new Regulatory Policy Committee will be made in due course.

Science: Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department and its predecessors have *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned in the last three years on the effect of Government-funded science awareness initiatives on the number of young people studying courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and if he will make a statement. [282053]

Mr. Lammy: There is good evidence that participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) enrichment activities improves young people's progression in science education. A recent OECD study "Science Competencies for tomorrow's world" (PISA 2006) shows that students in schools that hold more extracurricular science activities tend to perform better than their counterparts in schools that run fewer activities. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor departments have funded a number of initiatives with the specific aim of providing enrichment and enhancement activities for young people, thereby increasing numbers taking these subjects at GCSE level and beyond.

We have undertaken several studies on the impact of those Government-funded initiatives whose aim is to increase the numbers of young people studying STEM subjects. It is not usually possible to prove a quantitative causal link between any one initiative and impact on numbers, because many factors affect the decision-making process when choosing specific courses.

Recent studies include:

An evaluation of SETNET (now STEMNET), published in 2007, carried out by the Tavistock Institute. STEMNET has recently commissioned a follow-up evaluation, which will be published next year.

In July 2008, DIUS commissioned a study on the impact of science centres on both numbers studying STEM and wider public engagement with science. Science centres in England are principally funded by users and regional or charitable bodies, rather than by central Government. The research compares the contribution of science centres to STEM objective with that of a number of Government-funded initiatives, including STEMNET's STEM ambassadors programme, outreach work of the Royal Academy of Engineering (including the London Engineering Programme), Research Councils UK, and the British Science Association (including the CREST Star Investigator programme). This research will be published shortly.

In January 2009 DIUS published a report on "the Demand for STEM skills" which reviewed the evidence from employers on STEM recruitment alongside analysis of the supply of young people with STEM qualifications and their labour market outcomes. The report included recent trends of STEM qualifications at A Level, First Degree and Postgraduate levels. In addition, DIUS commissioned the Warwick Institute of Employment Research to provide some benchmark projections and associated implications of the demand and supply of STEM graduates. These studies identify the important contribution made by STEM enrichment activities in stimulating interest among young people and their increased attractiveness to employers which results.

On 26 May 2009, DIUS launched a Science and Society strategy, which tackles the five key themes identified in last year's public consultation. In so doing we will develop a more coherent approach to evaluating the impacts of science and society initiatives, including those related to STEM enrichment and enhancement, and the take-up of STEM courses by young people.

Setanta

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on *(a)* the placing into administration of Setanta and *(b)* the future financial position of (i) Setanta and (ii) its employees; and if he will make a statement. [282801]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The company approached the Department on 28 May to seek our influence with certain commercial stakeholders to help facilitate rescue discussions. Although we were unable to intervene in commercial discussions, officials kept in contact with the company throughout the period in which it was attempting to agree a rescue deal.

The administrators are shutting down the company's UK operation and have made 102 London-based staff redundant, along with a further 73 staff in Glasgow. They are keeping on another 21 staff in the short-term to help close the business down; 15 in London and six in Glasgow. Setanta's sales team is outsourced and I understand that the loss of Setanta's contract will result in around 95 redundancies at the out-sourcing company.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the student loan book has been sold under the provisions of the Sale of Student Loans Act 2008. [282854]

Mr. Lammy: The Government still intend to make sales from the student loan book, but it is clear that this should be done only at a time when we can get a good return for the taxpayer. For the time being, the market conditions do not allow this. However, we will actively look to identify opportunities for a sale that represents value for money as market conditions improve.

UK Trade and Investment: Offices

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) have been based in each UKTI office in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China in each year since 2003. [277788]

Ian Lucas: The following table reflects the allocation of UKTI full-time equivalent staff in Brazil, Russia, India and China each year since 2008.

	2003-4	*2004-5*	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*
Brazil	51.11	39.13	39	33.65	38.15	38.18
Russia	17.19	17.92	16	25.75	29.30	29.30
India	81.26	76.12	76.34	73.98	80.42	86.30
China[1] (including Hong Kong)	87.74	94.63	98.75	113.47	116.81	116.47

[1] In addition to the total given for China, since June 2007 17.5 full-time equivalent staff of the China Britain Business Council based in China have delivered, on behalf of UKTI, the majority of trade services in respect of China.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he received the latest Theatre Capability Review for Afghanistan; and what change in the number of troops the review recommended. [282182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 June 2009]*: We regularly assess the military capability required for operations in Afghanistan; periodic theatre capability reviews are one element of this assessment process. Following the most recent assessment submitted to Ministers, the Prime Minister announced on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869, the deployment of additional troops to provide extra security during the Afghan election period, improve force protection particularly against improvised explosive devices and to command the International Security Assistance Forces' Regional Command (South).

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many patients have received treatment under his Department's contract with the Priory Group in each year of its operation; and what the cost of the contract has been in each such year. [283076]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested, up until 31 March 2009, can be found in the following table.

	Number of patients treated	*Contract value (£ million)*
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	58	0.4
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	321	4.2
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	351	4.5
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	305	3.4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	289	3.9
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	284	3.3

These figures take into account the cost of assessing patients as well as any treatment programmes provided; the individual care needs of each patient will vary depending on their particular medical circumstances. They also include services provided by the Priory Group between 1 December 2003 and April 2004 prior to the formal contract start date.

The contract with the Priory Group has been replaced by a new one, awarded in November 2008 following open competition, with a partnership of seven NHS trusts led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust. This ensures coverage across the country, and complements the community-based approach we follow for our out-patients who are seen at our regional military mental health centres.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress his Department has made on arrangements to meet the mental health needs of veterans; and if he will make a statement; [283035]

(2) how many community veterans' mental health therapists there were in each region of *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [283078]

(3) what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Department of Health has provided to each of the community veterans mental health pilots in each year since their inception; and how much has been allocated to each in the next two years; [283080]

(4) how many veterans have used each of the community veterans mental health pilots in each year since their inception; [283081]

(5) what progress there has been on the pilots to examine ways of meeting the needs of veterans with mental health problems announced in 2007. [283028]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Veterans' health care has been the responsibility of the national health service (NHS) since 1948. The MOD is committed to good mental health and well-being for its personnel both in service and after.

While it appears that most veterans use community wide NHS service provision satisfactorily, including for mental health, the Government have taken a number of specific steps to meet the needs of veterans with mental health issues. These steps include creating the Reservists Mental Health Programme, open to any current or former member of the UK Volunteer and Regular Reserves who has been demobilised since 1 January 2003; the Medical Assessment Programme available to veterans deployed on operations since 1982; and more recently engaging with the four UK Health Departments and the ex-service charities in piloting a new best practice, culturally sensitive, mental health care service for veterans in six NHS trusts across the UK.

Each of the six pilots across the UK are operational and being led by a Community Veterans' Mental Health Therapist. The early take up results of the pilots suggest that veterans are willing to access the service, however the numbers making use of the service are currently being validated and are not yet available. An independent evaluation of the pilots is currently under way with a final report due in 2011. Outcomes will include the range of disorders and the level of demand to inform future service planning and subsequent roll out nationwide.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the amount to be paid by his Department to the company awarded the contract to deliver increment 3a of the Defence Information Infrastructure programme. [283173]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No contract has yet been awarded and any estimate of payment is subject to ongoing negotiations and as such is commercially sensitive and cannot be released at this stage.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the redundancy costs of ATLAS staff working on the Defence Information Infrastructure programme to date. [283174]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The value of payments to ATLAS in respect of those members of staff who occupied in-scope posts, transferred to ATLAS under TUPE arrangements and subsequently made redundant, is between £5 million and £6 million.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277165]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence does not have a specific Minister for Europe. The Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for NATO and European Security and Defence Policy issues, supported by the Minister for International Defence and Security, Baroness Taylor. Both the Secretary of State and Minister (IDS) have attended meetings of EU Defence Ministers under successive EU presidencies, where discussion typically focuses on issues of operations, capabilities and partnerships.

Equipment: Procurement

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the acquisition of rights over design information and assured access to relevant design knowledge in respect of procurement of *(a)* armoured fighting vehicles, *(b)* fixed wing piloted aircraft, *(c)* helicopters, *(d)* unmanned aerial vehicles, *(e)* ships, *(f)* submarines, *(g)* electronic equipment and programmes and *(h)* other purchases. [282807]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The MOD's general approach to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is to leave ownership of rights in design information with industry and to secure access and user rights in that information. There is a series of MOD standardised contract conditions (IPR DEFCONs) that are available to secure these rights under contract. However, our approach on an individual project may vary, according to its specific requirements. Details of MOD's IPR policy are publicly available as part of the Acquisition Operating Framework at:

www.aof.mod.uk/aofcontent/tactical/toolkit/downloads/ipr_ov/iprpol.pdf

Earlier this month I announced the launch of MOD's new Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) sector strategy, 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 52WS. For this sector, we will in future in principle wish to acquire at the outset rights over design information, as well as assured access to relevant design knowledge, sufficient to allow third party modification of designs where appropriate, and to permit routine maintenance repair and overhaul activities.

The MOD continues to develop a number of industrial sector strategies, under the umbrella of the Defence Industrial Strategy 2005. We expect to make announcements about these, including any relevant IPR issues, as they mature.

Pakistan: Military Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are deployed in Pakistan; and what duties they are undertaking. [283090]

Bill Rammell: I can confirm that there are currently 31 UK military personnel based in Pakistan undertaking a variety of roles including training, liaison and diplomatic duties. The number of military personnel based in Pakistan varies from time to time. This can be for a variety of reasons, including revised tasking and changes to previous roles.

Type 45 Destroyers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the launch of the Type 45 destroyer has been delayed; and if he will make a statement. [283017]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Government have previously acknowledged that the original estimates of the Type 45 destroyers in-service dates were overly optimistic. These judgments were made in the early period of the programme's life when the ship design was still relatively immature. Since a review of the programme and subsequent renegotiation of the contract in 2007, Type 45 has made strong progress, achieving a series of critical programme milestones without any further time or cost overruns.

Veterans Forum

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Veterans Forum has met in each year since its establishment; and which Ministers and officials from *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the devolved administrations have been present at each meeting. [283024]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Forum has met 18 times since its establishment in 2002 and currently meets bi-annually. It is chaired by the Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans, and is attended by a number of officials from the Ministry of Defence, including single service representatives. Representatives are also invited from other Government Departments including the Department for Health; Children, Schools and Families; Communities and Local Government; as well as from each of the Devolved Administrations. A number of ex-service organisations are also in attendance making the total number of attendees more than 30 at each meeting.

TRANSPORT

A419

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Highways Agency on required improvements to the A419 between Nettleton Bottom and Brockworth, Gloucestershire. [282722]

Chris Mole: The proposed A419 Cowley to Brockworth Improvement Scheme has been considered by the South West Region as part of its refresh of regional funding priorities. The region has not included the scheme in their forward programme of priorities up to 2019 and I am currently considering their advice.

Bus Lanes: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on funding for the construction of bus lanes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [282812]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport received advice in February 2009 from the East of England region on its transport priorities in the period up to 2018-19 as part of its Regional Funding Advice to Government. This includes proposals for investment in Essex for bus-based schemes such as South Essex Rapid Transit and the A13 Passenger Transport Corridor. The Department expects to be in a position to respond to this advice in the next few weeks.

Buses: Concessions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of free bus travel for the elderly; and if he will make a statement. [282683]

Mr. Khan: The Government are now providing around £1 billion each year to support the statutory minimum concession which improves social inclusion for older and eligible disabled people who can now travel free on local buses at off-peak times in any part of England. The Government are very confident in the adequacy of this statutory minimum. The provision of services over the network of bus routes and their frequency is for operators to decide as most services are run on a commercial basis. Where a commercial service is not considered viable, local authorities may contract with bus operators to provide services.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made towards the introduction of a direct high-speed rail service between London and Amsterdam. [283196]

Chris Mole: The Government are currently engaged in a restructuring of London and Continental Railways. Following this, it is the Government's intention, as market conditions allow, to sell, via an open and competitive auction, a long-term concession for High Speed 1 in such a way as to maximise value for money for the taxpayer.

High Speed 1 is incentivised to maximise usage of the line, and to help operators develop new international services. London to Amsterdam is a large market under consideration by train operators. Operators that wish to utilise High Speed 1 will negotiate access rights with the holder of the concession to operate the railway.

Crossrail Line: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Crossrail contracts awarded for *(a)* the Crossrail Programme Partner, *(b)* the Crossrail Delivery Partner, *(c)* the DfT Programme Partner and *(d)* the Network Rail Delivery Partner were awarded to (i) US companies, (ii) UK companies and (iii) other companies; which were subject to open tender; and if he will make a statement. [282884]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]*: The Programme Partner and Delivery Partner contracts were awarded by Crossrail Ltd., the Project Representative contract was awarded by the Department in conjunction with TfL, and the Network Rail Delivery Partner contract was awarded by Network Rail.

The Crossrail contracts referred to above were awarded as shown in the following table. All of the contracts in the table were awarded under European procurement rules.

Client	*Contract*	*Awarded to*	*Supplier country of origin*
Crossrail Ltd	*(a)* Crossrail Programme Partner	Transcend—Joint Venture between AECOM, CH2M Hill and The Nichols Group	AECOM—US CH2M Group—US Nichols—UK
Crossrail Ltd	*(b)* Crossrail Delivery Partner	Bechtel Ltd	US
DfT/TfL	*(c)* Project Representative	Jacobs Engineering Ltd	US
Network Rail	*(d)* Network Rail Delivery Partner	Bechtel Ltd	US

All contracts of this scale are subject to the European rules on procurement which require contracts to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union where any supplier that wishes to do so can express an interest, thus attracting the widest possible field of prospective bidders.

Under the "restricted procedure" interested suppliers are narrowed down, usually by means of some kind of qualifying questionnaire, to a shortlist from which suppliers are invited to tender.

Cycling: Schools

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there is a cycling safety programme which has been approved by his Department. [282540]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport provides advice on safer cycling for children of all ages on its "Think" website.

The Department also funds cycle training in schools. Grants are available for local authorities and school sports partnerships for national standard cycle training promoted as Bikeability training in England. The decision on which schools take part is for individual local authority and school sports partnerships to determine. We do not therefore hold information about which schools have taken part to date, though we do plan to ask for it in the future as the delivery in schools expands. To date we have funded around 146,000 training places and have made grants of around £10 million available in 2009-10 to fund over 200,000 places.

Safety may also be covered in a school's travel plan. Every school should have a travel plan by March 2010. We do not hold data on which plans include any safety aspect.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many local authorities were funding a cycling safety programme in schools on the latest date for which figures are available. [282558]

Mr. Khan: Most local authorities fund some form of cycle training in their schools usually through their Local Transport Plan funding. Not all of it is National Standard training (see reply to PQ 2588 08/09).

We have in recent years supplemented local authority spend and funded schools direct through their School sports Partnerships to increase the number of children who can receive national standard training as part of our target of delivering an additional 500,000 training places by 2012.

We announced cycle training grants amounting to £5.4 million earlier this year for 94 local authorities and our cycle demonstration towns. All bids for grant were awarded in full. This money will fund around 135,000 training places in addition to the estimated 100,000 being funded through our grants of £4 million to School Sports Partnerships. This builds on the 146,000 places we have already funded and goes a long way to meeting our 2012 target.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what core criteria his Department approves school cycling safety programmes; and what account is taken of the inclusion of training in safety in relation to heavy goods vehicles in the approval of such programmes. [282559]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport only provides grant for cycle training that meets the National Standard, promoted as Bikeability training in England. We have made over £9 million available to local authorities and school sports partnerships to deliver the national standard in 2009-10.

The National Standard replaces the old cycling proficiency and been designed and developed by leading experts in the road safety and cycling fields including RoSPA, Local Authority Road Safety Officers (LARSOA) and the Cyclists Touring Club. It is based on similar principles to lessons for motorcycles, allowing cyclists to assess risks and obstacles faced on the road. It involves a higher standard of cycle training, including an on-road element and is designed to give confidence and skills to deal with today's road conditions. It can only be delivered by qualified national standard trainers.

The training consists of three levels:

Level 1: aimed at 7-9 year olds-off road teaching of basic cycling and balance skills;

Level 2: aimed at 10-11 years-on-road training building on the first level;

Level 3: aimed at older children/adults-includes tackling difficult road features (e.g. roundabouts) and the safe use of cycle facilities.

The National Standard deals with positioning and identifying the different hazards and road conditions cyclists may face on the road including being able to recognise the dangers that can be posed by large vehicles. Positioning and filtering is particularly important when sharing road space. Filtering allows a cyclist to move inside or outside of slow or stationary traffic but the choice to filter rests with the cyclist who needs to know how to judge when to filter. These skills are primarily taught at Level 3. Not filtering up the left of large vehicles at junctions is the main proviso cyclists are taught because the drivers of large vehicles have a blind spot on their nearside when turning left and the space there if occupied by a cyclist becomes closed.

A number of local authorities and other organisations give advice to HGV drivers about sharing road space with cyclists.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the efficient funding and delivery of cycling safety programmes in schools. [282560]

Mr. Khan: None since the Secretary of State only recently took office. However both Department for Transport Ministers and officials here engage with Her Majesty's Government colleagues on these issues as necessary. Meetings are held regularly with the Department of Children, Schools and Families on the part increases in cycling, particularly cycling to school can play in improving the health and fitness of children as part of the Government's initiatives to reduce child obesity and increase physical activity.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 200W, on departmental manpower, what recent forecast his Department has made of the number of posts in each bargaining unit on 31 March 2010. [282958]

Chris Mole: The table shows the forecast change in headcount (permanent staff and those on fixed term contracts), expressed as full-time equivalents, between 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2010 in the centre of the Department for Transport and each of the Department's bargaining units.

	Actual for 31 March 2009	*Forecast for 31 March 2010*	*Change*
Department for Transport Centre	1,982	1,982	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,329	6,328	-1
Driving Standards Agency	2,574	2,560	-14
Government Car and Despatch Agency	315	350	35
Highways Agency	3,416	3,416	0
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,128	1,127	-1
Vehicle Certification Agency	136	144	8
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	2,638	2,679	41

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of *(a)* white and *(b)* non-white staff received the highest performance marking in the core business units of (i) the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions and (ii) the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions in each year between 1997 and 2006. [282959]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Department for Transport were formed in 2002, from the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions. ODPM then became the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in 2006. CLG does not hold any data on performance management markings before 2002.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of *(a)* white and *(b)* non-white staff received the highest performance mark in his Department's 2008-09 reporting round. [282960]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport line management are in the process of meeting all permanent staff to deliver annual performance management reviews. Once this process is completed, the results will be collated and published as part of the Department's annual equality monitoring duties. The Department expects to finalise this process by November 2009.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies have submitted bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. [283030]

Chris Mole: Within the Department for Transport, its agencies and associated non-departmental public bodies no bids for efficiency savings have been submitted to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers.

Fuels: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 427-8W, on diesel fuel: EU action, what information his Department holds on the applications *(a)* made by and *(b)* granted to member states for derogation from the Fuel Quality Directive 98/70 (EC) in respect of the sulphur content of fuel since its inception. [282575]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not aware of such a derogation ever having been either requested by or granted to a Member State. EU Fuel Quality Monitoring reports[1] suggest that, with the exception of transitional problems for two accession Member States in 2005, EU petrol and diesel are generally well within the mandatory sulphur content limits.

[1] http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/internal_market/single_market_for_goods/motor_vehicles/interactions_industry_policies/l28077_en.htm

Highways Agency

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Highways Agency in each of the last five years. [282145]

Chris Mole: Bonus payments to *(a)* directors are managed by the central Department. A comprehensive breakdown of *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Highways Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, total figures for each of the last five financial years are as follows:

Financial year	*PBI-8*
2003-04	89,314
2004-05	114,224
2005-06	182,930
2006-07	230,675
2007-08	202,590

Ports: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps have been taken to strengthen security at seaports in British Overseas Territories. [282319]

Paul Clark: The security of seaports in the British Overseas Territories falls within the remit of the Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate (TRANSEC) within the Department for Transport. TRANSEC provides the Governors and port facility operators in each territory with advice and guidance on port security, based on the globally-adopted International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code).

Railway Stations: Disabled

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of mainline railway stations in London that do not have full step-free access. [283012]

Chris Mole: Studies carried out for the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005 showed that 254 railway stations in London did not provide full step free access. More detailed information about station facilities is held by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and is available from the National Rail Enquiries Service at

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/search.html

A programme of access audits is currently under way to update this information.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what requirement for train carriages to have windows able to be opened by passengers his Department specified in franchise agreements. [283042]

Chris Mole: There is no requirement for windows that can be opened in any franchise agreement.

Railways: Hearing Impaired

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* holders of rail franchises and *(b)* other transport operators on the provisions they make for accessibility to their services by the deaf and hard of hearing. [281823]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not had recent discussions with rail franchisees, or other transport operators, about the way they provide their services to deaf and hard of hearing passengers. However, improving access to travel for disabled people is an ongoing objective of the Government, and the Department expects all service providers to consider the needs of deaf and hard of hearing passengers as required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended).

The Department for Transport sets out the strategy for improving access to rail transport in 'Railways for All: The Accessibility Strategy for Great Britain's Railways'. This strategy anticipates that holders of rail franchises will ensure their services improve access to travel for disabled passengers, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Railways: Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail services of each train operating company were *(a)* planned to run, *(b)* cancelled and *(c)* not in planned preventative maintenance in the last quarter of 2008-09. [283065]

Chris Mole: The number of rail services *(a)* planned to run and *(b)* cancelled in the last quarter of 2008-09 are shown in the following table by operating company:

Train operating company	*(a) Number of trains planned*	*(b) Number of trains fully cancelled*
Arriva Trains Wales	75,583	179
c2c	27,431	189
National Express East Anglia	143,254	1,809
Chiltern	25,642	156
London Midland	83,202	2,235
First Capital Connect	83,179	2,455
First Great Western	112,848	1,796
National Express East Coast	10,724	172
Merseyrail	48,687	283
Northern Rail	202,449	1,302
Southeastern	130,308	3,569
Southern	180,652	5,294
Stagecoach Southwestern	141,893	3,161
Trans Pennine Express	23,883	156
Virgin Trains	20,576	896
Crosscountry	22,327	236
East Midlands Trains	34,929	222
London Overground	32,540	440

The Department for Transport does not hold information on how many rail services of each train operating company were not in planned preventative maintenance in the last quarter of 2008-09.

Railways: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been spent to increase rail capacity in the West Midlands since 2005. [282756]

Chris Mole: The information is not available in the form requested. Responsibility for delivering capacity enhancements on the railway rests with Network Rail who also fund any works.

Government support for the railway, including a breakdown of support by region is available in the Department for Transport's annual report. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Road Traffic

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many representations his Department has received on traffic congestion in town centres in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [282860]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's records reveal that the following numbers of ministerial and official correspondence have been received over the last five years which have 'traffic congestion in town centres' within the subject heading:

	Number
2004	16
2005	40
2006	27
2007	47
2008	17
2009	8

There will have been many more representations to the Department on this issue, but it would not be possible to provide figures for these without disproportionate cost.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the distance travelled on *(a)* Highways Agency roads and *(b)* other roads by foreign-registered light vehicles in the last 12 months. [282889]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* It is estimated that foreign registered cars and light goods vehicles travelled 319 million kilometres on Britain's motorways in 2008, accounting for around 0.4 per cent. of the total distance travelled by these types of vehicles.

On other roads in Great Britain, it is estimated that foreign registered cars and light goods vehicles travelled 1.438 billion kilometres in 2008, around 0.2 per cent. of the total distance travelled by these types of vehicles.

The estimates are based on information collected through the Department for Transport's Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion survey in June 2008. They have been calculated on the assumption that the rate of foreign registered vehicles in traffic observed during this month is representative of the rate throughout the year.

Estimates of foreign registered traffic are split between motorways and all other roads, while the Highways Agency is responsible for managing both motorways and other major trunk roads in England. Estimates covering all Highways Agency routes are therefore not available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Roads: Construction

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the environmental impact of new road building; and what guidance his Department has issued to local and regional authorities on the management of such effects. [280732]

Mr. Khan: All major road schemes submitted to the Department for Transport by local authorities or promoted by the Highways Agency are subject to a full assessment against the Government's five overarching objectives of safety, environment, economy, integration and accessibility.

The Highways Agency also has in place a set of advice notes in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges that deal with the environmental design and management of roads. These advice notes state clearly that good environmental design is a matter of respecting the special character of each individual location where a road improvement may be sited. While this is written with the trunk road system in mind, local highway authorities are likely to find it useful for their purposes, too.

In addition, the Department has commissioned research into valuing transport's impact on the natural landscape. The results of phases 1 and 2 of the study are reported on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/rdg/landscape/

The Highways Agency has recently released a report, 'Post Opening Project Evaluation: Meta Analysis', on the evaluation of a number of Highways Agency schemes. A copy of the report can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/18386.aspx

The Highways Agency is also developing an improved methodology to account for the changes to the quantity of vehicle emissions that affect air quality that can result from new road schemes.

Finally, the Department is collaborating with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to manage research that they have commissioned to investigate the health impacts of environmental noise.

Transport: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on the allocation of funding for the construction of *(a)* bicycle paths and lanes and *(b)* footpaths in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282436]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport receives representations from time to time about the allocation of funding for various issues, including the construction of bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and footpaths. However, the Department is not aware of any specific representations on these subjects in relation to Essex or Castle Point. Such representations would generally be made to the local authority in question.

CABINET OFFICE

Breast Cancer: Males

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many adult males have been diagnosed with breast cancer in England in each year from 2005. [282925]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of its response will be placed in the Library.

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 759, on public relations, what the reasons are for the difference between the figure of £265 million given in the answer and the figure of £391 million for Central Office of Information (COI) spending on public relations, marketing and advertising in 2007-08 given in the most recent COI annual report and accounts. [250300]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to answer given to him on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 352W.

Central Office of Information: Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many breaches of security at the Central Office of Information have occurred in the last five years; and what procedures that agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276941]

Tessa Jowell: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated June 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the Security Breaches (276941).

In the last five years the Central Office of Information (COI) has had no reported breaches of security.

It is COI policy to report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Information on personal data security breaches is published on an annual basis in the department's Annual Report and Accounts as announced in the Data Handling. Procedures in Government Review published on 25th June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is also published within the Annual Report and Accounts.

Jobseeker's Allowance: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average length of time was for which jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster received JSA in each of the last five years. [282785]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster received JSA in each of the last five years. (282785)

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and that claim ending. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims during the May count period of the last 5 years.

Table 1. Median length of completed claims (off-flows) of jobseeker's allowance for claimants resident in Barnsley and Doncaster

		Months
May	*Barnsley*	*Doncaster*
2005	8.5	9.3
2006	11.0	10.7
2007	10.0	12.3
2008	9.5	9.7
2009	12.2	10.8

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations her Department has received on the consultation process on the South East England Regional Spatial Strategy. [R] [279564]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office received no representations on the South East England Regional Spatial Strategy.

Unemployment: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average unemployment rate among the working age population in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby was in each of the last five years. [R] [282522]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average unemployment rate among working age population in (a) Merseyside and (b) Crosby was in each of the last five years. (282522)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

Table 1 shows the unemployment rate for people resident in Merseyside and Crosby parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. The latest period for which data are available is October 2007 to September 2008. Unemployment rates are normally provided for people aged 16 and over, rather than people of working age, thus estimates provided are consistent with this definition.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they, are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Unemployment rates[1] for people resident in Merseyside and Crosby

	Unemployment rate (percentage)	
12 month period	*Merseyside*	*Crosby*
January to December 2004	6.1	2.5
January to December 2005	7.0	3.8
January to December 2006	7.0	7.2
January to December 2007	7.3	3.6
October 2007 to September 2008	6.9	6.0

[1] Number of unemployed people aged 16 and over as a percentage of the economically active population.
Source:
Annual Population Survey.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Policing: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency. [282565]

Mr. Hanson: It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and antisocial behaviour issues are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

HMIC has inspected every force in England and Wales to assess their capabilities in delivering Neighbourhood Policing and Developing Citizen Focus. HMIC's assessment in September 2008 was that all forces, including the Metropolitan Police Service, had met this standard.

Crimes of Violence

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of *(a)* attempted murder, *(b)* wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm and *(c)* wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent by use of a knife or sharp instrument there have been in each police force area in each year since 1997. [281674]

Mr. Hanson: Available information for knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences are provided for 2007-08 only. Data are not available for previous years.

Data for 2008-09 will be published on 16 July. It should be noted that GBH offences for 2008-09 will not be comparable with those published for 2007-08.

This is due to a change in the clarification rules for recording GBH with intent, and a change in the definitional coverage of GBH without intent.

Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2007-08[1]

			Number
Police force	*Attempted murder*	*Wounding with intent to do GBH*	*Wounding or inflicting GBH without intent*
Avon and Somerset	3	85	27
Bedfordshire	4	67	14
British Transport Police	0	11	1
Cambridgeshire	3	21	16
Cheshire	1	64	26
Cleveland	4	76	17
Cumbria	2	20	35
Derbyshire	2	49	28
Devon and Cornwall	5	127	45
Dorset	0	20	11
Durham	2	53	8
Dyfed-Powys	3	31	31
Essex	6	89	10
Gloucestershire	1	15	4
Greater Manchester	20	600	315
Gwent	1	79	8
Hampshire	7	88	108
Hertfordshire	8	46	35
Humberside	2	55	34
Kent	10	94	32
Lancashire	8	138	46
Leicestershire	5	99	25
Lincolnshire	0	29	9
London, City of	1	3	2
Merseyside	3	312	52
Metropolitan Police	59	878	869
Norfolk	1	22	13
North Wales	1	56	25
North Yorkshire	1	21	4
Northamptonshire	3	83	10
Northumbria	1	140	64
Nottinghamshire	5	122	27
South Wales	0	333	46
South Yorkshire	6	111	43
Staffordshire	1	34	75
Suffolk	2	33	42
Surrey	6	25	18
Sussex	2	62	84
Thames Valley	9	63	30
Warwickshire	2	41	14
West Mercia	1	43	20
West Midlands	14	561	370
West Yorkshire	10	306	75
Wiltshire	6	43	17

[1] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on consultancy contracts in 2008-09. [272583]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008-09, the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau) spent £140 million on consultancy services, such as project management, legal services and assistance with major projects, with a wide range of consultants. This represents 7 per cent. of Home Office expenditure on third party goods and services.

DNA: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a person has been arrested but not charged with an offence following their being suspected of a crime as the result of the use of the national DNA database. [281957]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not collected. In 2007-08, there were 37,376 crimes with a DNA match. If the National DNA Database (NDNAD) matches a DNA profile found at a crime scene with that from a known individual, a match report is sent to the police for further investigation. However, the NDNAD does not hold information on the outcome of the police investigation following the match—for example, whether the person concerned is arrested or charged—as its purpose is only to match DNA profiles.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Entry Clearances

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone interviews with visa applicants from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Afghanistan have been conducted by entry clearance officers in (i) Islamabad and (ii) Abu Dhabi since 27 October 2008. [280127]

Alan Johnson: No telephone interviews have been conducted with visa applicants from either country since 27 October. Visa section staff may contact visa applicants to clarify certain aspects of an application, and there is routine verification of supporting documents which may also result in telephone inquiries being made.

Forced Marriages: Victim Support Schemes

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what support services his Department funds in each local authority area for victims of forced marriage; and if he will make a statement; [282249]

(2) what proportion of his Department's budget for 2009-10 is allocated for support for the victims of forced marriage. [282250]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following a successful pilot in 2008, the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has allocated £84,000 to its Domestic Programme fund for 2009-10. Specialist organisations were invited in early June to apply for funds for project activities which support delivery of the FMUs 2009 and 2010 action plan. The Unit also separately funds support and awareness raising activity overseas, including in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

The Home Office has also allocated a total of £3.5 million to the nine Government Offices for the regions and the Welsh Assembly for 2009-10 to support local initiatives to tackle domestic violence. A number of regions have chosen to allocate specific funding to local initiatives tackling forced marriage in their areas.

Forensic Science Service: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was made on the proposed closure of the Forensic Science Services Chorley laboratory. [282980]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No decision has been made to close Chorley or any other site. The Forensic Science Service has shared proposals about the future operational site deployment with employees and their representatives (Trade Unions and Employee Forum). This is part of the on-going collective consultation on the business transformation announced in the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009. These proposals are subject to consultation and no decisions have been made about Chorley or any other site.

Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made in identifying files and documents it holds relating to the Hillsborough disaster that can be released. [279536]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office, in partnership with other Departments, is currently developing a Government wide approach to the issue in close liaison with local agencies in South Yorkshire and beyond.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Mohsin Zafar. [250864]

Alan Johnson: The then Home Secretary replied to my right hon. [illegible]iend on 25 March 2009.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of immigration offences related to the student visa system in the last 12 months. [279319]

Alan Johnson: The system used by the UK Border Agency to record data relating to prosecutions for immigration offences does not categorise individuals by the nature of their stay in the UK.

The UK Border Agency would normally seek to remove an individual under such circumstances, rather than to prosecute them, as the former presents a more cost effective alternative.

Passports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for passports were found to be supported by birth certificates which claimed to but did not relate to the applicant in each of the last five years. [281933]

Alan Johnson: From 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2009 IPS records indicate that there were 492 applications identified in which an impostor used the genuine birth certificate of another person to support a passport application.

This breaks down as follows:

	Number
2005-06	76
2006-07	163
2007-08	122
2008-09	131

In addition, for the same period IPS records indicate that 258 instances were identified in which a passport application was supported by a forged, counterfeit or stolen blank birth certificate.

This breaks down as follows:

	Number
2005-06	62
2006-07	108
2007-08	53
2008-09	35

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Police: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers (PCSO's) were assigned to duties in each parliamentary constituency in the Lancashire County Council area in the latest period for which figures are available; how many police officers were assigned to duties in each such constituency in 1997; and how many PCSOs were assigned to duties in each such constituency in 2003. [282076]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel data are not available by parliamentary constituency. Information for Lancashire along with basic command unit (BCU) data for police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) for 2007-08 is provided in the tables.

Police strength by police basic command unit was collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002 and is therefore not available for earlier years.

Information on the number of PCSOs in BCUs is not available for 2003 as it has only been collected since June 2005.

Police officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2008[1]—Lancashire police force

BCU[2]	*Full-time equivalent Police officers*
Lancashire Central	375
Lancashire Eastern	598
Lancashire Northern	439
Lancashire Southern	507
Lancashire Western	543
Pennine	572
Central Services	641
Total	3,675

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number; due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] Airport BCUs do not have a population attributed to them.

Police community support officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2008[1]—Lancashire police force

BCU[2]	*Full-time equivalent Police community support officers*
Lancashire Central	52
Lancashire Eastern	71
Lancashire Northern	81
Lancashire Southern	70
Lancashire Western	70
Pennine	56
Central Services	1
Total	400

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number; due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] Airport BCUs do not have a population attributed to them.

Police: Voluntary Work

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of police volunteers in Greater London. [283011]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of March 2008 there were 2,510 special constables in the Metropolitan Police Service and 72 in the City of London Police.

We do not collect information about the number of volunteer police staff or volunteer cadets.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make *(a)* the filming of and *(b)* the subsequent online publication of video recordings of instances of road traffic violations an offence; and if he will make a statement. [281783]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have no current plans to change what can legally be filmed and published on the internet.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 197W, on the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the 5,000 persons of interest resident in the UK. [281835]

Alan Johnson: Approximately 95 per cent. of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's current persons of interest (POI) are recorded as having a UK address.

JUSTICE

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers are employed at HM Prison (HMP) Ashwell; and whether any prison officers at HMP Ashwell have been relocated to other prisons following the disturbance on 11 April 2009. [273534]

Mr. Straw: There are currently 117.5 prison officers employed at HMP Ashwell, two less than the present target staffing figure. The 117.5 are made up of 91 officers, 21 senior officers and 5.5 principal officers.

Since 1 June 2009, 20 officers and three senior officers have been carrying out temporary detached duty at other prisons within the East Midlands region. The remainder of the unified staff are engaged in normal business running the prison, which still holds 204 prisoners in the secure areas of the prison that were not damaged in the disturbance on 11 April 2009. They are additionally continuing the process of clearing up the establishment, bringing back into use work areas damaged during the disturbance, and recovering and returning prisoners' property from the damaged areas of the prison to those prisoners that have been transferred.

Damages Act 1996

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ensure the discount rate for future loss under the Damages Act 1996 reflects the real rate of return for index-linked government stock and equity; and if he will make a statement. [282499]

Bridget Prentice: The discount rate under the Damages Act 1996 is kept under review. It would not be appropriate for the Government to give any indication of how or when this is done, as this would generate speculation that could significantly affect settlements in personal injury cases.

Domestic Violence: National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what programmes to tackle domestic violence are being developed within the National Offender Management Service. [282404]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) currently delivers three specific accredited programmes to perpetrators of domestic violence—two in the community and one in prison. In addition NOMS delivers a range of other accredited programmes that may be appropriate in these cases which address violent and sexual offending. NOMS is undertaking a review of the suite of existing programmes which will help inform commissioners and future developments.

Ernst and Young

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secret[illegible] of State for Justice what criteria were used to dete[illegible] when to commission Ernst and Young to conduct economic research as part of the Legal Services Commission's review of family law legal aid funding; and if he will make a statement. [282439]

Bridget Prentice: The LSC commissioned the Ernst and Young research as part of their responsibility as a commissioning organisation to ensure that the impacts on client access to family advocacy services are fully understood, and in order to gain a fuller economic understanding of the market for family advocacy. It was always the LSC's intention to undertake this research alongside the consultation process. The LSC has agreed to share the outcome of the Ernst and Young research with a number of stakeholders representing legal service providers and will do so shortly.

The LSC issued the invitation, to tender for the research contract as soon as possible after the consultation began.

Judicial Appointments for England and Wales

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Judicial Appointments Commission staff at each civil service grade were on secondment from his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [282554]

Mr. Straw: The breakdown of secondees from the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor Departments to the Judicial Appointments Commission by civil service grade is set out in the following table:

	SCS	*Grade 6/7*	*SEO*	*HEO*	*EO*	*AO*	*Number Total*
3 April 2006	4	9	6	13	26	27	85
31 March 2007	3	10	7	10	20	18	68
31 March 2008	2	10	10	13	18	12	65
31 March 2009	1	6	3	8	9	4	31
31 May 2009	1	5	2	7	9	2	26

The Judicial Appointments Commission publishes headline information about its staffing in its Annual Reports, which can be found on their website at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last discussed the criteria for judicial appointments with the chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission. [282556]

Mr. Straw: I have regular bilateral meetings with the chairman of the JAC at which the criteria for judicial appointments are sometimes discussed. The last of these meetings was held on 13 May 2009.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for the position of recorder the Judicial Appointments Commission has received in each of the last three years. [282578]

Mr. Straw: No recorder selection exercises were run in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. In 2008-09 the number of applications received in respect of recorder selection exercises is as follows:

Recorder Northern, North Eastern and Wales: 433 eligible applicants;

Recorder Midland: 366 eligible applicants; and

Recorder South East: 981 eligible applicants.

The Judicial Appointments Commission today released diversity data in respect of these exercises save for the Recorder South East exercise which has yet to complete. These data can be found on their website at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/

Judicial Appointments for England and Wales: Consultants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Judicial Appointments Commission has spent on external consultants in each of the last three years. [282580]

Mr. Straw: The Judicial Appointments Commission has spent the following sums on consultants in each of the financial years:

	£
2006-07	112,000
2007-08	87,000
2008-09	154,000

Judicial Appointments for England and Wales: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff the Judicial Appointments Commission employs. [282555]

Mr. Straw: On 31 March 2009, the Judicial Appointments Commission employed 43 permanent staff (JAC employees) and 62 temporary staff (comprising 15 staff on fixed-term JAC contracts, 44 seconded or loaned to the JAC from public sector bodies, and 3 agency staff). On 31 May 2009, the Judicial Appointments Commission employed 47 permanent staff (JAC employees) and 58 temporary staff (comprising 18 staff on fixed-term JAC contracts, 39 seconded or loaned to the JAC, and one agency staff).

The Judicial Appointments Commission publishes headline information about its staffing in its annual reports, which can be found on their website at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to undertake a full impact assessment before implementing reforms relating to *(a)* family law legal aid and *(b)* legal aid client criteria arising from the Legal Service Commission's review of family law legal aid funding; and if he will make a statement. [282438]

Bridget Prentice: An initial Impact Assessment was conducted and published alongside the Family Fees consultation paper "Family Legal Aid funding from 2010". The LSC is currently modelling the proposed final scheme and accompanying Impact Assessment, which will be published with the final policy proposals on family fees. This follows consideration of the consultation responses and the commissioning of the research by Ernst and Young on the family advocacy market to provide additional data for the Impact Assessment. The LSC has agreed to share the outcome of the research with a number of stakeholders representing legal service providers and will do shortly.

The LSC is committed to conducting Impact Assessments on all its public consultations on policies and adheres to its own Impact Assessment Code of Practice. A copy of the Code can be found on its website.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population who will be eligible for legally-aided representation in the Crown Court once means-testing is re-introduced; [282669]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population eligible for legally-aided representation in magistrates' courts. [282670]

Mr. Straw: Every defendant appearing before the Crown court for trial once the new means testing scheme is introduced will be granted a representation order, subject to the submission of a completed application form. We estimate that just over three-quarters of defendants will receive legal aid without needing to make any contribution. Further information is available in the "Impact Assessment", published alongside the Government's response to the consultation on the principle of Crown court means testing.

Defendants in the magistrates court need to pass both the Interests of Justice test and the means test to qualify for legal aid. Recent estimates suggest that around half of the population of England and Wales would be financially eligible to receive legal aid in the magistrates courts if they were charged with an offence that satisfied the Interests of Justice test. The majority of defendants who are not legally-aided in the magistrates courts are ineligible because their cases do not meet the Interests of Justice criteria.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been transferred from prison to a secure mental health unit in each of the last five years. [282569]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is given in the following table.

	Number transferred
2004	890
2005	907
2006	967
2007	941
2008	997

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff with a *(a)* prison and *(b)* probation background are employed in the Department of Violence, Extremism and Psychopathy within the National Offender Management Service. [282403]

Maria Eagle: While there is no specific Department of Violence, Extremism and Psychopathy, there is a team within NOMS Interventions and Substance Misuse Group which focuses on interventions in these three areas. There are currently 17 staff and of these 10 have a prison background, two probation, two have worked directly for both settings, three have neither. The majority of these staff have experience of delivering work which spans both services.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people working at the National Offender Management Service Head Office have a background in *(a)* a probation service and *(b)* a prison service. [282405]

Maria Eagle: There are no centralised records held on the background of employees. These records may be held locally and to collect this for the National Offenders Management Service headquarters would incur disproportionate cost.

Offences against Children: Prosecutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for offences relating to child abuse there have been in each local authority area since 1997. [280667]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children, 2004 to 2007 is shown in the table. As there is no specific offence of "child abuse," statistics are only provided where the age of the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. The term "child abuse" describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent, guardian, carer, or stranger. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including physical assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to child abuse[1] England and Wales, by police force area, 2004-07[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area	*2004[5]*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	66	110	88	81
Bedfordshire	27	46	37	32
Cambridgeshire	34	58	41	56
Cheshire	44	80	62	81
City of London	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	27	43	58	60
Cumbria	21	46	32	48
Derbyshire	49	100	86	89
Devon and Cornwall	21	65	94	110
Dorset	18	29	33	28
Durham	49	67	72	68
Essex	52	58	54	24
Gloucestershire	18	37	40	45
Greater Manchester	159	234	248	245
Hampshire	105	134	129	195
Hertfordshire	40	65	82	39
Humberside	48	55	61	53
Kent	47	39	33	49
Lancashire	81	159	149	155
Leicestershire	49	66	78	78
Lincolnshire	52	59	54	51
Merseyside	49	60	60	90
Metropolitan Police	356	495	483	452
Norfolk	22	44	41	53
North Yorkshire	39	42	69	59
Northamptonshire	18	30	24	11
Northumbria	56	121	122	129
Nottinghamshire	68	91	92	80
South Yorkshire	61	89	85	101
Staffordshire	91	89	91	72
Suffolk	28	59	60	48
Surrey	17	50	39	44
Sussex	27	73	79	79
Thames Valley	40	122	112	139
Warwickshire	13	30	22	34
West Mercia	60	88	88	98
West Midlands	308	286	332	293

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to child abuse[1] England and Wales, by police force area, 2004-07[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area	*2004[5]*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West Yorkshire	117	159	130	140
Wiltshire	25	54	38	34
Dyfed-Powys	41	25	24	26
Gwent	51	79	52	54
North Wales	50	56	49	25
South Wales	120	117	108	130
England and Wales	2,664	3,810	3,731	3,778

[1] Includes the following offences:
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person.
Cruelty or neglect of children.
Abandoning children under two years.
Sexual assault of a male child aged under 13.
Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 13 or under 16.
Sexual assault of a female child aged under 13.
Sexual activity with a male or female child aged under 13.
Sexual activity with a male or female aged under 16.
Familial sexual offences of a male or female child aged under 13.
Abuse of children aged under 18 through prostitution and pornography.
Abuse of trust sexual offences against a child aged under 18.
Meeting a male or female aged under 16 following sexual grooming.

[2] Covers offences which identify the victim as a minor at the time the offence was committed.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] The Sexual Offences Act came into force on 1 May 2004.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit. Ministry of Justice.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will publish the medical reports the Government has requested from the *(a)* Chief Medical Officer and *(b)* Industrial Injuries Advisory Council as part of its consultation on pleural plaques. [283503]

Bridget Prentice: The Government commissioned reviews of the medical evidence on pleural plaques from the chief medical officer and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council alongside their consultation paper on pleural plaques. I have deposited copies of these two reports in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government received 224 responses to their consultation paper. A full summary of the responses will be published together with the Government's response to the consultation as soon as possible.

Prisons: Drug Abuse

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued on drug abuse and treatment for drug abuse in prisons; and whether he plans to revise that guidance. [282623]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service's Interventions and Substance Misuse Group provides guidance to prison staff and prisoners about drugs misuse and treatments. This includes various prison service orders and instructions, manuals, booklets, leaflets, videos, DVDs and toolkits.

All of the guidance provided by Interventions and Substance Misuse Group is regularly reviewed and revised in order to provide the most recent best practice and advice in the substance misuse field. The manuals associated with accredited drug treatment programmes are reviewed annually and revised additions are promulgated throughout the prison estate.

The revised NOMS Drug Strategy was published In June 2009. The strategy includes a comprehensive list of supporting guidance documents. Additionally, the strategy's accompanying communication strategy "Getting the Message Across" includes an Interventions and Substance Misuse Group Approved Drug Publications list for prisons and details suitable guidance produced by other agencies relevant to drugs misuse and treatment. Getting the Message Across includes a commitment to review the composition of the list annually and identify gaps to be filled. A copy of the NOMS Drug Strategy and its supporting papers is available in the House of Commons Library and online at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/noms-drug-strategy-2008-2011.htm

Prison Sentences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 256-64W, on prison sentences, how many of the 14 prisoners recalled following release from an indeterminate sentence for public protection were recalled for alleged re-offending; and what the *(a)* original offence and *(b)* alleged further offence was in each case. [282533]

Mr. Straw: There are five cases where the recall was for alleged reoffending as shown in the table. It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether an offender sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection should be released once his tariff has expired.

Index offence	*Alleged reoffending*
Wounding GBH	Actual Bodily Harm x 2 Assault by Beating x 2 Criminal Damage x 1
Wounding GBH	Assault
Robbery	Affray
Robbery	Kidnap Threats to Kill Assault Assault by Penetration Driving Offences
Arson	Affray

Prison Service: Probation

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff with a background in *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the Probation Service are employed in the Offender Management Group of the National Offender Management Service. [282399]

Maria Eagle: The Offender Assessment and Management Group currently has 34 staff in post of whom 11 are on secondment from the probation service. Four staff in the group have a background in HMPS one of whom has also worked in the probation service. Of the remaining 19, one has previously served in the probation service.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times in each prison in England and Wales *(a)* police have been called in to the prison and *(b)* arrests have been made in the prison following violence, disorder or other incidents in each of the last 12 years; and what the reason for the (i) request for police attendance and (ii) arrest was in each case. [282425]

Maria Eagle: Data on police attendance at prison incidents are only recorded by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) for incidents of concerted indiscipline and hostage taking. Data on arrests are only recorded by NOMS for drug related incidents, bomb threats, firearm related incidents and breaches of perimeter security. None of these data can be produced in the form requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released upon the expiry of their tariff in each of the last five years. [282671]

Mr. Straw: There have been two releases of foreign national prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection since 4 April 2005. They were released after expiry of their tariff on the direction of the independent Parole Board, one in 2007 and one in 2009. Both were deported on release.

Prisoners: Personal Property

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to my hon. and learned Friend the Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1526-28W, on prisoners: personal property, what the equivalent figures for 2008-09 are. [282553]

Mr. Straw: A breakdown of the compensation the National Offender Management Service has paid, during 2008-09, to prisoners for damaged or lost property is set out as follows. In obtaining the information the National Offender Management Service does not distinguish between prisoners' lost or stolen property.

2008-09	*Number of cases*	*Compensation (£)*
Lost property	1,876	106,570.76
Damaged property	255	13,727.89

Prisons: Training

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training prison staff receive in *(a)* offender management, *(b)* parole assessment and *(c)* risk assessment. [282380]

Maria Eagle: Training provision does not fall into these specific categories. However, training for prison staff covering these areas is provided by the following courses: Introduction to Risk Assessment and Management (IRAM), Managing Indeterminate Sentencing and Risk (MISaR) and Offender Assessment System (OASys).

In 2010, it is proposed to introduce a formal training programme for HM Prison Service offender supervisors covering all aspects of offender management.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many psychologists were employed by *(a)* HM Prison Service in (i) 2001 and (ii) 2004 and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service in 2008. [282401]

Maria Eagle: There were 343 full-time equivalent psychologists employed in the Prison Service on 31 March 2001, 518 in 2004 and 653 across the National Offender Management Service in 2008. These figures include associated workers, who are involved with programmes but are not psychologists. Psychological assistants are not included.

Prisons: Probation

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the members are of the Programme Support Audit Group within the Interventions and Substance Misuse Group of the National Offender Management Service; and which of them have a *(a)* prison and *(b)* probation background. [282402]

Maria Eagle: There are 13 staff in the Programme Support and Audit team within Interventions and Substance Misuse Group including eight operational and five administrative staff. All are from a prison background. The names of the staff concerned have not been included to respect the rights of the individuals concerned.

Probation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the principal duties are of probation staff seconded to work in jails in England and Wales. [282381]

Maria Eagle: Probation staff of varying grades may be seconded to prisons in the public and private sector under service level agreements (SLA) between the governor of each establishment and the chief officer of the local probation area. Each SLA is negotiated and tailored to meet the needs of each establishment.

The duties of seconded probation staff therefore vary according to the SLA and the grade of the officer. However, they typically centre on offender management, including the assessment and management of risk; preparation for release; and the determination of licence conditions. Seconded probation staff may also deliver or manage accredited programmes in the prison.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation staff who have been seconded to prisons in England and Wales have had those secondments cancelled. [282516]

Maria Eagle: Probation staff working in prisons in the public and private sector are supplied under service level agreements (SLA) between the governor or director of each establishment and the chief officer of the local probation area. Each SLA is negotiated and tailored to meet the needs of each establishment. The requirement for probation staff both in respect of grade and overall number is subject to annual review.

Information on the number of probation officers working in prisons under such arrangements are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many serious offences in each category of offence were committed by offenders on court-order probation supervision in each of the last five years; [282672]

(2) how many serious offences in each category of offence were committed by offenders on post-release probation supervision in each of the last five years. [282673]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) holds data on the number of offenders convicted of serious further offences for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, recorded in accordance with the requirements of probation circulars 8/2006 and 41/2006.

The following table contains a break-down, by type of supervision, of those offenders convicted of serious further offences, who were included in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS) 2007 for 2006-07 and 2007-08. NOMS does not hold this information for 2004-05 and 2005-06. I will send the hon. Gentleman the breakdown by supervision type in respect of the 2008-09 figures (and updated figures for 2007-08) after OMCS 2008 has been published on 31 July 2009.

It should be noted that the figures are based on the year in which NOMS was notified that the offender was charged with the serious further offence, not the year in which the offender were subsequently convicted. The table includes the probation caseload figures for 2007 and 2008, for reference.

Offenders convicted of serious further offences, by offence and supervision type, recorded by NOMS PPU in accordance with PC8/2006 and 41/2006 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008

	2006-07		2007-08	
Serious further offence conviction	*Court orders*	*Post release*	*Court orders*	*Post release*
Abduction	1	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary (section 10 of the Theft Act 1968)	2	0	11	9
Aggravated theft	19	12	1	1
Armed robbery	0	0	1	2
Arson (section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	18	3	22	6
Assault by penetration (section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	3	5	10	3
Assault of a child under 13 by penetration (section 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	3	1	2	1
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	8	6	5	3
Burglary with Intent to Inflict grievous bodily harm (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	1	0	2	1
Burglary with intent to commit rape (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	0	0	0	1
Carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968)	0	0	0	0
Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs (section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	1	1	1	0
Causing death by dangerous driving (section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	6	5	5	1
Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (section 10 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	0	0	1	1
Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity (section 8 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	0	0	1	1
False imprisonment	16	5	14	11
Intercourse with girl under thirteen (section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956)	0	0	1	0
Kidnapping	8	9	14	6
Manslaughter	25	4	13	2
Murder	56	18	33	14
Other explosives offences	1	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	2	3	1	0
Other serious child sex offences	5	1	1	0
Other serious violent offence	6	4	7	1
Possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968)	0	1	7	2
Possession of firearm with Intent to cause fear of violence (section 16A of the Firearms Act 1968)	0	0	0	1
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968)	1	0	5	4
Rape (section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956)	40	14	22	6
Rape (section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	0	4	5	2
Rape of a child under 13 (section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	1	2	5	2
Robbery or assault with intent to rob (section 8 of the Theft Act 1968)	7	5	7	4
Serious firearms offences (SFO)	23	10	7	4
Sexual activity with a child (section 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	23	6	16	4
Sexual activity with a child family member (section 25 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	1	0	0	3

Offenders convicted of serious further offences, by offence and supervision type, recorded by NOMS PPU in accordance with PC8/2006 and 41/2008 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008

	2006-07		*2007-08*	
Serious further offence conviction	*Court orders*	*Post release*	*Court orders*	*Post release*
Sexual assault (section 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	0	0	1	0
Sexual assault of a child under 13 (section 7 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003)	8	4	13	6
Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	140	49	120	43
Total serious further offence convictions	413	172	354	145
England and Wales caseload by supervision type	[1]140,126	[1]26,110	[2]140,282	[2]30,270

[1] As at 31 March 2007.
[2] As at 31 March 2008

Probation: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of *(a)* male to female offenders and *(b)* male to female probation staff in each age range is in the Hampshire probation area. [281382]

Maria Eagle: The ratio of male to female offenders on the Hampshire probation area's caseload as at 31 December 2008, by age group, was as follows:

Age group	*Male to female ratio*
18 to 20	9:1
21 to 24	10:1
25 to 29	7:1
30 to 39	7:1
40 to 49	6:1
50 to 59	9:1
60 and over	40:1
All	8:1

The ratio of male to female probation staff as at 31 March 2008, by age group, was as follows:

Age group	*Male to female ratio*
18 to 20	—
21 to 24	1:7
25 to 29	1:4.5
30 to 39	1:3
40 to 49	1:2.5
50 to 59	1:1.5
60 and over	1:1
All	1:2.5

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce reporting centres for Tier 3 and Tier 4 offenders in Wales. [283087]

Maria Eagle: There are no plans to introduce reporting centres for Tier 3 and 4 offenders currently. The establishment of contact centres for Tier 2 offenders is currently being rolled out and these will include provision from probation service staff and partner agencies.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Israel

11. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestine. [282690]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK's position is clear. Following the Israeli Prime Minister's speech on 14 June 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said to Mr. Netanyahu that the UK expects more on the issue of settlements: a complete freeze in settlement construction, in line with Israel's Roadmap commitments.

19. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on the middle east peace process. [282708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK welcomes the Israeli Prime Minister's support for a two-state solution. His speech on 14 June was a positive step towards making further progress on the peace process. However, more is needed from Israel on the issue of settlements: a complete freeze in settlement construction, in line with Israel's Roadmap commitments. We also emphasize that the Palestinians should continue to be prepared to engage in negotiations with Israel towards achieving a two-state solution.

EU-Pakistan Summit

13. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome of the most recent EU-Pakistan summit was; and if he will make a statement. [282701]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The first ever EU-Pakistan Summit on 17 June 2009 marked a step change in EU engagement with Pakistan. The Summit established a long-term strategic partnership to tackle issues of violent extremism, security, and democratic governance. The agreed outcomes were: a comprehensive package of trade measures; a total package of €129 million for humanitarian assistance; and greater EU co-operation on counter-terrorism.

European Union

14. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on

prospects for institutional change in the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [282702]

Chris Bryant: The December 2007 European Council conclusions stated that the Lisbon Treaty would mark the end of institutional debate. Heads of governments attending said:

> "The Lisbon Treaty provides the Union with a stable and lasting institutional framework. We expect no change in the foreseeable future."

The June 2009 European Council provided the assurances that Ireland needed to move forward on the Lisbon Treaty. The Irish government have said that there will be a second referendum in October 2009.

Afghanistan

15. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan. [282703]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Afghanistan remains one of the UK's top foreign policy priorities. The key political focus for Afghanistan in 2009 is the presidential and provincial council elections which will take place on 20 August 2009. We are actively working in support of the Afghans, the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force to help ensure these elections are successful.

Bagram Detention Facility

16. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on recent allegations of prisoner abuse at the US detention facility at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. [282704]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not had recent discussions on this issue. We have previously discussed allegations of prisoner abuse at Bagram with our US allies. It is vital that all detainees are treated humanely. It is right that the International Committee of the Red Cross have access to those detained at the Bagram detention facility.

I note that President Obama has set in motion a comprehensive review of detention policy and practice, including in Afghanistan. We welcome this and await its outcome.

EU Budget

20. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the General Affairs Council on means for reducing the size of the EU budget; and if he will make a statement. [282709]

Chris Bryant: There have been no recent discussions at the General Affairs Council on means for reducing the size of the EU budget. The Commission were mandated by the December 2005 European Council to produce a Budget Review White Paper by the end of 2009. Our contribution to the review was outlined in HM Treasury's publication, "Global Europe: Vision for a 21st Century Budget."

Presidential Election: Ukraine

21. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government plan to give to international missions monitoring the conduct of the forthcoming presidential election in Ukraine. [282710]

Chris Bryant: Ukraine will go to the polls for presidential elections on 17 January 2010. The Government will be offering financial support to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) monitoring mission. The offer will be calibrated according to ODIHR's requirements and our expectation to provide up to 10 per cent. of observers for such missions.

Pakistan

22. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan. [282711]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The relationship between Pakistan's main political parties has stabilised since March. It is critical that Pakistan's politicians continue to work together to address Pakistan's key challenges. We are encouraged by the significant cross party support for the Government of Pakistan's efforts to bring security and stability to Swat and respond to the humanitarian crisis. We continue to work to help develop a strong, stable and democratic Pakistan.

Iran

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on developments in Iran following the recent presidential election; and if he will make a statement. [282700]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We deplore the violent response of the Iranian authorities to post-election demonstrations and the severe restrictions placed on the media. We have made clear that it is for Iran's people to choose their own government. It is essential that the Iranian authorities investigate fully the allegations that have been made about the election.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of developments in Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [282707]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain deeply concerned about its nuclear programme. As the latest International Atomic Energy Agency report on Iran made clear, Iran is still not co-operating fully with the agency and is increasing its enrichment capabilities contrary to the requirements of five UN Security Council Resolutions. We have made clear that Iran can enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy but must reassure the international community that its intentions are exclusively peaceful.

Colombia

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of poverty and social inequality in Colombia of the implementation of the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and Colombia. [282626]

Chris Bryant: Free trade agreements can help alleviate poverty and inequality when combined with others measures. While it is difficult accurately to predict the precise effects of free trade agreements, the European Commission is currently undertaking a Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-Andean negotiations, a process which the UK strongly supports. This will provide a guide to its likely economic, social and environmental impact. The draft final assessment report is expected in July 2009.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department began to keep for monitoring purposes a record of Colombian security force personnel who have received UK training in Colombia. [282493]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy at Bogota has records of Colombian Security Forces who have received direct UK training in Colombia from 2000-01. This framing includes that required to counter the illegal drugs trade. We do not disclose the details of this engagement as to do so would compromise operational effectiveness and endanger the lives of British and Colombian staff involved. Our engagement is carefully maintained to ensure that it cannot contribute to any human rights abuses.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281943]

Chris Bryant: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments, and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service, was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. 65 per cent. of the food procured by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2007-08 was produced domestically. It expects to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Embassies: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets have been set in relation to the time taken by British High Commissions to reply to correspondence from hon. Members; and what proportion of correspondence from hon. Members received a reply from the British High Commission in Islamabad within the target time in the latest period for which figures are available. [282724]

Chris Bryant: Correspondence received in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is dealt with under Cabinet Office guidelines which state that all Departments should set targets for replying to correspondence from MPs. These targets (which may be different to the targets set for other types of correspondence) will be published in the annual correspondence report co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office. Individual Departments' targets for routine correspondence from MPs should be a maximum of 20 working days. We do not have details of correspondence for specific overseas posts.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets are set in relation to the time taken by British consulates to reply to correspondence from hon. Members. [282731]

Chris Bryant: Correspondence received in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is dealt with under Cabinet Office guidelines which state that all Departments should set targets for replying to correspondence from MPs. These targets (which may be different to the targets set for other types of correspondence) will be published in the annual correspondence report co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office. Individual Departments' targets for routine correspondence from MPs should be a maximum of 20 working days.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the UK donations to the nuclear security fund under the budget of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the purposes of increasing that agency's verification capacity. [281901]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The UK reviews annually its ability to make voluntary contributions to the IAEA's extra-budgetary nuclear security fund. We made the most recent such payment of £3.5 million in March this year, making a total of £5.5 million over the last three years. The Nuclear Security Fund covers assistance to states to address nuclear security issues rather than verification. The latter is handled by the IAEA regular budget, the UK contribution to which is set by the IAEA in accordance with UN allocation procedures.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the handling of protests following the recent presidential elections in Iran by the Iranian authorities; and what assessment he has made of the implications for UK foreign policy of recent events in Iran. [282808]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear that we deplore the violence against those seeking to protest peacefully in Iran. We have also expressed serious concern following the wholly unjustified expulsion of two members of our embassy, and the recent arrests of a number of our local staff. Some have since been released and we are working hard to secure the release of those who are still being held.

In terms of the foreign policy implications we have stressed the importance of Iran engaging with the international community on all issues of concern, in particular Iran's nuclear programme, in the spirit of mutual respect and full recognition of Iran's international obligations.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Iran on the conduct of the Presidential election; and if he will make a statement. [283089]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since the election my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have both made clear that the election was a matter for the people of Iran, but that there were concerns raised by some of the candidates needed to be addressed by the Iranian authorities.

The Foreign Secretary has also made this point in the course of a telephone discussion with Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter dated 9 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S. Hussain. [278839]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 29 June 2009.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support a nuclear weapons convention as a means to the elimination of nuclear weapons. [282663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The UK is committed to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons and is actively working towards creating the conditions to make that goal a reality. We believe that the principal means to achieve this is through the non-proliferation treaty (NPT), resulting in a reinforced sense of shared responsibility for both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states.

At the moment we believe it would be premature to press for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which be unlikely to make any headway and would distract attention from efforts to bolster the NPT. We do nonetheless believe there may be a role for a Nuclear Weapons Convention in the future when the time comes to establish a final ban.

Saudi Arabia: Foreign Relations

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of UK-Saudi Arabia relations; and if he will make a statement. [282699]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Relations between the UK and Saudi Arabia are strong. Saudi Arabia is a key regional ally. Our long history of friendship, understanding and cooperation covers regional and international issues, counter terrorism, education, energy security, trade and investment. It is a broad-based and important relationship, which the Government are committed to maintaining and developing.

Somalia: Piracy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of trends in the level of threat to shipping from pirates off Somalia in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [282665]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

Although piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia continues to be a problem, various international military operations established in the region have had success in countering it.

The main trend in the level of threat to shipping off Somalia in the last 12 months is based upon the annual monsoon pattern, when there is a marked deterioration of sea conditions between June to September and December to March and a corresponding drop in the number of piracy attacks.

The authority on piracy off Somalia is the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa) (MSC(HOA)) and the Coordination Centre of the EU Naval Force. MSC(HOA) make up-to-date advice and guidance to seafarers available on their website

www.mschoa.org

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Pensions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on levels of *(a)* pensions and *(b)* other forms of support to (i) Gurkha service personnel and (ii) UK-recruited service personnel who left the armed forces before 1997; and if she will make a statement. [281752]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has not received any representations on this matter.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Government's Respect agenda on implementation of the Government's policy on community cohesion. [282390]

Mr. Malik: The Commission on Integration and Cohesion identified a close relationship between perceptions of antisocial behaviour and community cohesion. So the Respect Agenda will have made an important contribution to work to build cohesion in local communities.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 24 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1794W, on council tax, how many dwellings have value significant code data for the *(a)* GG code and *(b)* OS code. [282394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Out of 22.7 million dwellings, as at 23 June 2009, the number of dwellings in England that had value significant code data for *(a)* GG code (a garden, where one is not usual for the locality) was 6,073 and *(b)* OS code (a patio, which is value significant; for example, a substantial terrace) was 5,143.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information is provided to the public by his Department on procedures for challenging council tax banding of their properties. [282752]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department publishes a leaflet on council tax, "Council Tax—a guide to valuation banding and appeals" which gives information on how to appeal against the council tax banding of your property. It is available to download from CLG's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctaxvalappeal.pdf

Hard copies can also be requested, from DCLG Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB; telephone: 0870 1226236.

In addition, information on appealing against your council tax band can be found on the VOA website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk

and the VTS website at:

http://www.valuation-tribunals.gov.uk

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the next revaluation for council tax purposes will take place. [282384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have repeatedly made it clear that the council tax revaluation in England has been postponed and that we will not consider the matter again before 2010-11.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in England were moved into a higher council tax band as a result of a revaluation of the property when the property was sold in the last year for which figures are available. [282952]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no revaluation taking place. The Valuation Office Agency is only required to review council tax bands when a property sells if it has previously been improved. There were approximately 22.7 million dwellings in England in 2008-09, of which 8,406 (0.04 per cent.) were reviewed and moved into a higher council tax band in that year, and 33,725 (0.15 per cent.) were reviewed but remained in the same band.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's new Geographical Information System will be used to assist with council tax valuations and revaluations. [282953]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proposed GIS application is intended to support a variety of the VOA's valuation responsibilities, including council tax valuations. There is no council tax revaluation taking place.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 298W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting, redacting elements relating to advice to Ministers on the formulation and development of Government policy. [283021]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281066]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. The following table identifies the number of laptops belonging to the Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies that have been stolen in the last five years.

	Number of laptops stolen
2004-05	2
2005-06	7
2006-07	7
2007-08	9
2008-09	1

The official data on each of the laptops were not encrypted, because none of the information was classified. However, each laptop was password protected.

This answer does not include the Government offices for the English regions who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282539]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies are not proposing to request money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007. [279342]

Mr. Malik: The number of consultations carried out by Communities and Local Government between 9 July 2007 and 25 June 2009 is 124. In line with the code of practice on consultation, Communities and Local Government publishes all its consultation documents on its website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Emergency Services: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 834W, on overseas aid: emergency services, what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision that the UK Fire and Rescue Service will organise the overseas search and rescue capability for disaster response on the service's ability to respond to natural disasters in the UK. [282167]

Mr. Malik: The overseas deployment of resources to assist in an emergency is organised by UK International Search And Rescue (UKISAR). UKISAR are teams of Search and Rescue specialists drawn from the UK Fire and Rescue Services and voluntary organisations. Any overseas deployment of UKISAR is undertaken on behalf of the Department For International Development (DFID).

The UKISAR equipment and resources including specialist staff are in addition to the Urban Search and Rescue equipment and resources provided within the New Dimension programme to equip the FRS to respond to UK incidents.

Therefore the overseas deployment of UKISAR will not impact on the capacity of the UK Fire and Rescue Service to provide an appropriate Urban Search and Rescue response to incidents in the UK.

In addition, on receipt of a request for overseas deployment a further assessment of the risk to the UK is completed by DFID and CLG (via the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser) prior to the approval for UKISAR deployment.

eQuality Networks

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each of its executive agencies and *(c)* the Audit Commission has provided to eQuality Networks in the last 12 months; when the funding was provided; how much was provided; and for what purposes. [282794]

Mr. Malik: I can confirm that no funding has been provided to eQuality Networks in the last 12 months by either Communities and Local Government, its Executive agencies, the Housing Corporation, the Audit Commission or English Partnerships.

Equity

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of negative equity in the housing market in each region. [282813]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government do not produce its own estimates of negative equity.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders have estimated the number of owner-occupiers in negative equity, including by region, as at the end of 2008. These are available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/Homeownerhousingequitythroughthedownturn.pdf?ref=6360

Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to regional planning bodies on the production of environmental impact assessments for proposals in regional spatial strategies which direct a review or deletion of an allocation of green belt land. [282386]

Mr. Ian Austin: Guidance on reviewing green belt boundaries is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts, issued in 1995. Guidance on environmental assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies is included in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents', issued in 2005. Regional Spatial Strategies set the framework for green belt policy, including the direction of long-term development in a region. They may include policies to review green belts, but it is for the local planning authorities to determine any detailed changes to green belt boundaries.

Green Belt: Dorset

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to protect *(a)* the green belt and *(b)* open green spaces in Dorset. [282471]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information is as follows.

Green belt

We have made it clear that Government remain committed to the key principles of the green belt and is not changing green belt policy as set out in PPG2. However, this does not mean that green belt boundaries should be set in stone. Nationally, the green belt continues to grow.

Open green spaces

The Government's planning policies on open space are set out in planning policy guidance note 17 (PPG 17) "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)". It recognises that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives.

Local planning authorities in Dorset, like in the rest of the UK, need to take these policies into account in the preparation of their development plans. PPG2 and PPG 17 may also be material considerations in deciding individual planning applications.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of the Homes and Communities Agency and each of its predecessor bodies under each budget sub-heading were in each of the last three years. [270688]

Mr. Ian Austin: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The administration costs of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and former English Partnerships (EP) and the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) are shown in the following table:

£ million

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		
	EP	*ASC*	*EP*	*ASC*	*EP (8 months)*	*HCA (4 months)*	*ASC (12 months)*
Staff	29.0	1.0	30.6	1.2	22.2	17.7	1.2
Other staff costs	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Redundancy	0.6	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Premises	5.3	0.0	5.3	0.0	4.1	2.1	0.0
Facilities	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Communications	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0
Printing and records	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.0
Staff welfare	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0
Office expenses-other	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
IT costs	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.8	1.0	0.1
Communications and PR	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.3	0.9	0.0
Uninsured losses	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research/feasibility studies	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Evaluation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Audit fees	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Recruitment	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Travel and subsistence	2.9	0.1	2.8	0.2	2.5	1.3	0.1
Training	0.9	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.0
Professional fees	1.6	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.7	2.2	0.0
Interest paid	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Board	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
General	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	45.7	1.7	49.5	1.9	39.2	26.9	2.2

Notes:

1. Figures are subject to rounding.
2. Figures for 2008-09 are subject to audit. Figures for the ASC are on a twelve month basis and figures for the final four months have not yet been disaggregated from the HCA costs (four months) as provided.
3. The administration costs for EP for 2007-08 and 2008-09 includes transitional costs which were for the HCA set up. The HCA administration costs for 2008-09 also include an element associated with transition.
4. The administration costs for the ASC are exclusively related to staff, subsistence, facilities. Costs on communications, for example, would be through the ASC programme.

The operating budget for the HCA was calculated on the basis that the HCA inherited the existing operating baselines of its predecessor organisations and programmes with no additional funding being provided (excluding the interim transitional set up costs).

The administration costs of the investment arm of the Housing Corporation could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost. As a result, the figures shown for 2006-07, 2007-08, and the first eight months in 2008-09, are not directly comparable with the figures provided for the HCA for the last four months of 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of the predecessors of the Homes and Communities Agency were as a percentage of *(a)* income and *(b)* grant-in-aid in each of the last three years. [274862]

Mr. Ian Austin: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The following table provides the administration costs as a percentage of income and grant in aid for English Partnerships and the Academy for Sustainable Communities between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Percentage

	English partnerships	*Academy for sustainable communities*[1]
Year ended 31 March 2006		
Administration costs as percentage of income	10	12
Administration costs as percentage of grant in aid	7	n/a
Year ended 31 March 2007		
Administration costs as percentage of income	11	28
Administration costs as percentage of grant in aid	15	n/a
Year ended 31 March 2008		
Administration costs as percentage of income	11	27
Administration costs as percentage of grant in aid	19	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] The Academy for Sustainable Communities did not receive grant in aid.

It is not possible to disaggregate the figures for the investment arm of the Housing Corporation without incurring disproportionate costs. Figures for the Housing Corporation can be found in its annual report and accounts.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable homes have been built in Tamworth constituency since 2005; [282757]

(2) how many social rented homes have been built in Tamworth since 2005. [282758]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on new homes built for social rent and affordable housing is not available by constituency. The following table shows the number of social rent and affordable homes built in Tamworth local authority, from 2005-06.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Social rent new build	0	10	20
All affordable new build	0	10	20

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.

Not all social rented or affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, an additional 10 affordable homes were acquired in Tamworth in 2005-06; these are not included in the table. The social rent figures differ from the number of affordable homes provided, because the affordable housing figures also include intermediate rent and low cost home ownership, as well as social rent.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties had been sold under the HomeBuy Direct Scheme in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster at the latest date for which figures are available. [282789]

John Healey: There have been four properties sold under HomeBuy Direct in Barnsley and one in Doncaster.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Social Homebuy transactions there have been in each local authority area in each year since the scheme's inception. [282870]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 390-92W.

Local Authority Challenge Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria apply to local authorities for them to be eligible for assistance under the Local Authority Challenge Fund. [282421]

Mr. Ian Austin: The £100 million funding for the scheme announced in the Budget to build new social housing is available for all local authorities provided they are building on their own land to at least Sustainable Building Code Level 3, though higher code levels will be encouraged. Schemes must also offer value for money. Authorities must have submitted their bids either by the end of July or the end of October this year and completed schemes by March 2011.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications for the use of wellbeing powers by local councils of the ruling of the Court of Appeal in the case of Risk Management Partners Limited *v.* Council of the London Borough of Brent and others; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals for a general power of competence for local councils. [282517]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are still considering what steps, if any, may be appropriate in the light of this judgment.

Local Government Finance: East Midlands

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Specified Capital Grant has been provided to each local authority in the East Midlands in each year since 2001; what bids each authority has made to meet its obligation to provide disabled facilities grant in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [282634]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government regard the Disabled Facilities Grant programme as an important means to help disabled and older people continue to live as independently as possible by having their homes adapted. That is why the Government have more than doubled the funds available for the programme from £57 million in 1997 to £158 million in 2008. In February 2008 the Government announced the removal of the 60:40 match funding requirement, therefore the 2008-09 planned expenditure table represents central Government's contribution towards Disabled Facilities Grant.

Local authorities in England report information on the expenditure for Disabled Facilities Grants planned for the next financial year through the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns. Expenditure data are available for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants. Usually expenditure data for discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants has been recorded with other grants and loans and there is no breakdown available.

Expenditure data for mandatory and discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants were reported together for 2001-02. These planned figures are recorded on the HSSA returns for the following financial year. Planned expenditure figures include any payment planned to be paid as an instalment in that financial year.

Specified Capital Grant also includes Private Sector Renewal and Regeneration grant. Allocations of Private Sector Renewal and Regeneration grant can only be provided for the period since 2006. Prior to 2006-07, local authorities were provided with Supported Capital Expenditure allowances for the renewal of private sector housing combined with that for their own stock. Private sector renewal expenditure totals cannot be disaggregated until 2006-07.

A table with this information for the East Midlands has been deposited in the House Library.

Local Government Finance: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the information contained in local spending reports is published in a format suitable for *(a)* syndication and *(b)* mashing via XML feed. [282747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local spending reports are available on the Communities and Local Government website, and there are no plans to amend the way information in existing reports is made available. A consultation, which ended on 15 May 2009, considered how the reports should develop. The Government will consider all the representations submitted and we will publish our response later this year.

Local Government Services: Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to collect figures for the number of complaints received by local authorities on the standards of their services. [282814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for each local authority to ensure it has in place its own robust systems for handling complaints, including recording data about complaints, as recommended in the guidance on running a complaints system issued by the local government ombudsman.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme, as a percentage of the employee's salary is, for each of the different options within the scheme. [282750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The rate of contributions paid by employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme is prescribed in Regulation 3 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No 1166, as amended).

The rate of contribution paid by employers who participate in the Scheme is determined at each triennial valuation, the last being in March 2007. Details of contribution levels for each individual employer are not held centrally but a summary of recent triennial valuation exercises undertaken by the Society of County Treasurers can be found at:

http://cipfa.org.uk/panels/pensions/download/2007_LGPS_Valuation_Survey_Results.pdf

Individual Scheme administering authorities can provide details of contribution levels.

Markets

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the role of street markets in local economies. [282763]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information is as follows:

"Planning Policy Statement 6—Town Centres" acknowledges the role of street markets:

> "Street and covered markets (including farmers' markets) can make a valuable contribution to local choice and diversity in shopping as well as the vitality of town centres and to the rural economy".

Draft "PPS4—Planning for Prosperous Economies", underlines this.

In March 2009 CLG and DEFRA issued a joint statement to the Select Committee on Retail Markets:

> "The Government recognises the valuable contribution that street, covered and farmers' markets can make to local choice and diversity in shopping, as well as to the vitality of town centres and the wider rural economy."

The 2009 CLG report "Looking After Our Town Centres" refers to the contribution street markets can play in vibrant town centres.

In May 2009 the then the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, (Mr. Wright) met with the National Association of British Market Authorities to hear about the role markets play in local economies.

National Skills Academies: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the establishment of the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock. [282470]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Thames Gateway Skills Envoy, Sir David Melville, who reports jointly to Communities and Local Government and Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers, recently met Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council, to discuss investment in skills in the Thames Gateway. Sir David emphasised to Mr. Russell the important contribution investment in skills in the Thames Gateway makes to the Government's objectives for the area, in particular holistic regeneration in places such as Thurrock.

The National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills has submitted a proposal to the Learning and Skills Council seeking capital grant support for a proposed new training centre. The proposal is now subject to a prioritisation exercise being conducted by the council. An announcement about this is expected shortly.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effect on biodiversity of the implementation of the provisions of section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; and whether his Department has issued recent guidance to local authorities in respect of applications to create *(a)* byways open to all traffic and *(b)* restricted byways. [283010]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has commissioned a study to review the impact of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act section 40 biodiversity duty.

This study, by Entec, will comprise a large scale survey of public bodies this summer, follow-up interviews with a smaller sample of bodies and views from other stakeholders. It is expected to report in November this year. The steering group includes representatives from DEFRA, Natural England, Devolved Administrations, local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

A publication called "Making the Best of Byways", published by DEFRA in 2005, provides advice on managing the different sorts of traffic on byways. In addition, DEFRA published guidance entitled "Regulating the Use of Motor Vehicles on Rights of Way and Off Road", which was sent to all local highway authorities. We believe this is the first step in providing information to local authorities, the police and Community Safety Partnerships on getting the most out of existing legislation, and to encourage the formation of local partnerships.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is expected to be raised in gross revenue from business rates in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local billing authority in England in 2009-10. [282951]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities reported that they expect the gross revenue (before deductions for reliefs and collection costs) to be raised from non-domestic rates in 2009-10 in England to be £22.473 billion.

A table giving details of the gross revenue to be raised from non-domestic rates in 2009-10 by each of the 326 billing authorities in England has been placed in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point receive small business rate relief; [282846]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point which qualify for small business rate relief but do not claim it. [282847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Castle Point borough council reported that the number of businesses receiving small business rate relief was 625 at 31 December 2006, the latest date for which data are available. At the same date, the number of businesses in Essex receiving small business rate relief was 11,426, excluding figures for Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities.

We have not made an estimate of the number of businesses in Castle Point or Essex which qualify for small business rate relief but do not claim it.

Ordnance Survey: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Ordnance Survey spent on external public relations in each of the last three years; and how much it will pay *(a)* 3 Monkeys Communications and *(b)* Target under its contracts with them. [282391]

Mr. Ian Austin: Expenditure by Ordnance Survey with external public relations organisations in the last three years was:

	£
2006-07	66,445
2007-08	25,470
2008-09	69,721

3 Monkeys Communications and Target have recently pre-qualified to provide consumer sector public relations services under call-off arrangements. Payments to these companies under these arrangements will depend upon the nature and quantity of work commissioned from each company during the duration of these arrangements.

Recreation Spaces

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 517W, on recreation spaces, whether his Department's green spaces database holds information on *(a)* public gardens and *(b)* gardens of residential properties. [283022]

Mr. Ian Austin: The green spaces database holds:

Information on public gardens from the English Heritage "Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest". This can include other designated landscapes such as town squares.

Residential gardens information from the Generalised Land Use Database (2005) categorised 'Gardens'. This is based on publicly available Ordnance Survey data.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategic environmental assessments were produced for *(a)* the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and *(b)* the South East Regional Spatial Strategy. [282872]

Mr. Ian Austin: Both the Regional Spatial Strategies for the South East and East of England Regions underwent sustainability appraisals as required by Section 5(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The sustainability appraisal incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the South East Regional Spatial Strategy will next be reviewed. [282871]

Mr. Malik: As the South East England Regional Spatial Strategy was published recently, the focus now is on implementing it. However, reviews of the policies in the regional spatial strategy on minerals and Gypsies, Travellers and travelling showpeople are under way. The regional planning body will need to consider when to do a full review against the backdrop of emerging legislation for integrated regional strategies. My officials will discuss with them a project plan for the review over the coming months.

Right to Buy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what purposes revenue collected from Right to Buy receipts in each of the last three years has been allocated. [282628]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 457-58W.

The housing receipts (including Right to Buy) surrendered to the Exchequer are not hypothecated to specific policy areas but, together with other resources, contribute towards the overall fiscal package within which departmental public expenditure programmes are agreed as part of the spending review process.

Receipts retained by Communities and Local Government (CLG) are used to support its housing and planning capital programme expenditure. The following table sets out the elements of CLG housing capital programme in the last three years, and the housing receipts (including Right to Buy) received by CLG.

£ million

	2008-09[1]	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Housing receipts received by the Department	160	694	839
Housing expenditure			
Major repairs allowance	1,241	1,277	1,311
Regional housing pot: LA supported capital expenditure allocations	272	288	340
ALMO supported borrowing allocations	896	926	782
LSVT gap funding	123	79	32
Affordable housing programme: capital investment	2,625	2,029	1,921
Disabled facilities grant	146	127	121
Regional housing pot: private sector renewal: capital grants	347	437	388
Housing market renewal	356	370	315

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are current estimates.

Social Rented Housing: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations his Department has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* social housing tenants in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point on (A) a further stock transfer ballot and (B) a transfer of housing stock to registered social landlords; and how many such representations were in favour of a housing stock transfer to registered social landlords. [280454]

Mr. Ian Austin: During the last five years there have been two housing stock transfers to registered social landlords in Essex, at Braintree and Rochford. The Department received five representations from social housing tenants against the housing stock transfer proposals in Braintree. The Department did not receive any representations in respect of the Rochford housing stock transfer.

The Department received four representations in 2008 from social housing tenants in Castle Point in relation to the council's proposed housing stock transfer. The representations did not comment on a further stock transfer ballot. None of the representations received were in favour of housing transfer stock.

Social Rented Housing: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties he expects to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* purchased for social rent in the London Borough of Islington in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) each of the next four years. [283092]

Mr. Ian Austin: The forecast completions for social rented homes approved to date for the National Affordable Housing Programme in Islington are:

	Forecast completions
2009-10	164
2010-11	310
2011-12	188
2012-13	27
2013-14	67

Information is not available on projections of social rented properties to be purchased in Islington.

Social Rented Housing: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in Tamworth met the decent homes standard in each of the last five years. [282759]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Social sector non-decent dwellings in Tamworth

	Local authority		*RSL*	
As at 1 April each year	*Non-decent*	*All stock*	*Non-decent*	*All stock*
2004	1,996	4,891	n/a	n/a
2005	1,371	4,729	218	1,347
2006	1,356	4,679	65	1,373
2007	439	4,613	90	1,407
2008	429	4,590	79	1,467

Sources:

1. Annual returns, from all LAs that own social housing stock, to Communities and Local Government.
2. Annual return from registered social landlords as at 31 March each year. RSR stock figures include owned general needs, supported housing and housing for older people, and non-decent stock is reported on this basis.

Stop Notices: Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on whether stop notices can be used against temporary dwellings erected by Travellers which are not caravans. [282482]

Mr. Malik: Guidance on the use of stop notices is contained in Annex 3 of "ODPM Circular 10/97: Enforcing planning control: legislative provisions and procedural requirements". The circular states that a stop notice may be used to prohibit the use of land as a site for a caravan occupied by any person as his or her own main residence. A stop notice cannot prohibit the use of any building as a dwelling house. The Department has not issued guidance on whether stop notices can be used against temporary dwellings.

Temporary Accommodation: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were living in temporary accommodation in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency at the latest date for which figures are available. [282903]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness (available both in the Library and via the CLG website):

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessql2009

The quarterly release includes a supplementary table showing key information at local authority level. The latest temporary accommodation figures reported by all local authorities (including Middlesbrough), as at 31 March 2009, can be found in column X of this table:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1251701.xls

Urban Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has evaluated on the social effects on local areas of prosperous town centres. [282637]

Mr. Ian Austin: The main sources of research, which my Department has considered during the course of its work on town centres, include:

"Vital and Viable Town Centres: Meeting the Challenge"—URBED, 2004, HMSO;

"Smaller Towns Report: Delivering retail-led renaissance in towns and smaller cities"—UCL, 2004, BCSC;

"The Role and Vitality of Secondary Shopping"—CBRE, 2004, The National Retail Planning Forum (sponsored by BCSC Education Trust, Marks & Spencer and the ODPM);

"Policy Evaluation of the Effectiveness of PPG6"—CBRE, January 2004, ODPM;

"The Lyons Inquiry into Local Government, Place-shaping: a shared ambition for the future of local government, Final Report"—Sir Michael Lyons, March 2007;

"A Balance of Trade", Report of the Commission on Retail Conservation to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, March 2007;

"Clone Town Britain, the loss of identity on the nation's high streets"—New Economics Foundation, September 2004;

"Ghost Town Britain"—New Economics Foundation, 2005;

"High Street Britain 2015"—House of Commons All-Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group, 2006;

"Mixed Use Development: Practice and Potential"—DTLR, March 2002, HMSO;

"Managing Urban Spaces in Town Centres—Good Practice Guide", Chesterton for the Association of Town Centre Management (sponsored by DOE, Scottish Enterprise, Boots the Chemists, Marks & Spencer).

We have also evaluated and taken account of similar work produced by stakeholders such as individual retailers, Friends of the Earth, Accessible Retail and the Association of Convenience Stores.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) recent framework review of a statutory information gateway between the VOA and billing authorities for council tax valuations. [282393]

Mr. Timms: The Government are considering the recommendation for a statutory information gateway.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* rules and *(b)* procedures apply to (i) the sale by Departments of property they own and (ii) the allocation of any proceeds from the sale. [282985]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* All central Government Departments were required to publish an Asset Management Strategy (AMS) around the time of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. Departmental capital expenditure limits are agreed at spending reviews and set net of the capital income that Departments are able to retain in capital budgets, as set out in AMSs. To incentivise efficiency in asset management. Departments are able to retain up to 20 per cent. more than the forecast capital income to fund further investment. Any further retention of income is considered on a case-by-case basis by the Treasury, with the aim of encouraging participation in wider market activities and disposal of surplus assets.

These arrangements are set out in the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance issued annually by the Treasury, which is available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_bc_consolidated_budgeting

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on pot plants in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [280022]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury spent £12,812 in 2007-08 and £12,564 in 2008-09 on the provision, supply and maintenance of potted plants displayed in the common areas of 1 Horse Guards Road, including the external courtyards, the reception of the building and some office spaces.

Departmental Research

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between the enforcement of fiscal rules and levels of public debt. [282675]

Mr. Byrne: Analysis of the performance of the fiscal framework is provided in "The Government's fiscal framework", HM Treasury, November 2008.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Equitable Life pensioners, *(b)* representatives of the company, *(c)* the Parliamentary Ombudsman and *(d)* others on Equitable Life . [276959]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 June, *Official Report*, column 904W.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which organisations have received funding from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; and how much each has received; [282506]

(2) which organisations have provided funding for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; and how much each has provided. [282507]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) was required to make payments to Abbey National and ING Direct in order to transfer retail deposits, up to the FSCS deposit compensation limit, from Bradford and Bingley and the UK subsidiaries of certain Icelandic banks. In addition, the FSCS is paying compensation directly to retail depositors with the UK branch of Landsbanki and the London Scottish Bank in accordance with the scheme rules.

The FSCS is ordinarily financed by levies on the financial services industry collected in accordance with the scheme rules. However, in order for the FSCS to make the above payments the Treasury has provided loans to the FSCS.

Details of the above compensation payments including Treasury's loans to the FSCS are set out in the Budget report published on 22 April 2009. The amount outstanding on the Treasury's loans to the FSCS as at 31 March 2009 will be published in the Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2008-09.

The FSCS also paid additional amounts on behalf of the Government and the Icelandic deposit-guarantee scheme to ensure that retail depositors with the UK branch of Landsbanki and the London Scottish Bank were fully compensated. Funds to meet this expenditure have also been provided to the FSCS, by the Treasury.

Individual Savings Accounts: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of residents of *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby who have individual savings accounts. [282523]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Revenue and Customs can only provide the analysis of the proportion of residents in Merseyside and Crosby who have Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) at disproportionate cost. However, regional ISA statistics are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9_12.htm

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish an inquiry into the events leading to and following the failure of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man); and if he will make a statement. [282657]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man (KSF IOM) is not a subsidiary of KSF in the UK, but of the Icelandic parent company. Oversight of KSF IOM is the responsibility of the Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission and therefore the question of a review would be primarily a matter for the Isle of Man Government.

Loans: Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the conditions necessary for the lowering of borrowing costs; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the cost of Government borrowing. [282656]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's debt management objective is to minimise, over the long term, the cost of meeting the Government's financing needs, taking into account risk, while ensuring that debt management policy is consistent with the aims of monetary policy.

The Government sets the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) an annual remit to meet its financing requirements consistent with this policy.

Further details can be found in the "Debt and reserves management report 2009-10" published alongside the Budget, and is available on:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_debtreserves.htm

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Child Benefit Office in Washington plans to reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 29 April and 10 June 2009 on his constituent Miss Laura Grieve. [282973]

Mr. Timms: The Child Benefit Office replied to the hon. Member on 25 June 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized businesses of the ending of transitional relief for business rates from April 2009 under the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) England Regulations 2004. [282158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 145.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 888W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, whether *(a)* micro wind turbines and *(b)* small-scale solar or photovoltaic cells will be (i) liable, (ii) valued and (iii) taxed for business rates as part of the 2010 revaluation process. [258480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Micro generation plant and machinery, including micro wind turbines and small-scale solar or photovoltaic cells, installed on or before 31 March 2010 are, in principle, liable to be included in the revalued rateable values due to come into force on 1 April 2010.

In practical terms, very basic micro generation plant, particularly small micro wind turbines and small-scale solar or photovoltaic cells, add very little if any to the annual rental value of a property and will therefore have negligible impact on the rateable value even when rateable.

Operational Efficiency Programme Review

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role the Shareholder Executive has in the Operational Efficiency Programme review of *(a)* the Met Office and *(b)* other trading funds; and whether (i) Ministers and (ii) officials (A) have met or (B) plan to meet private sector stakeholders as part of the review. [282191]

Mr. Byrne: The Shareholder Executive acts as adviser to HMT with respect to the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) and leads the review process for individual assets. This is the case with Met Office and other trading funds. Both Ministers and officials have met, and will continue to meet, with private sector stakeholders as part of the OEP process.

Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what projections for UK pensioner income from funded pensions and savings underlie the projections for pension credit expenditure in Table 4.1 on page 36 of the Long-term Public Finance Report of March 2008; [282220]

(2) what the breakdown is of the different components of state pension expenditure identified in footnote 1 to Table 4.1 on page 36 of the Long-term Public Finance Report of March 2008. [282221]

Mr. Byrne: A breakdown of the components of the state pension expenditure projections shown in the Long-term Public Finance Report and information on the underlying assumptions is published on the Department for Work and Pensions website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk

The Long-term Public Finance Report is based only on the potential impact of demographic change on the public finances over the coming decades, and does not make assumptions on future changes to the levels of savings or pension contributions.

Revenue and Customs: ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 444W, on HM Revenue and Customs: closures, what the cost is of the improvements to HM Revenue and Customs IT systems referred to in the Answer; and if he will make a statement. [282422]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has a programme of continuous improvement to its IT systems, which includes the improvement referred to in my previous answer. This year, HMRC is investing 6 per cent. of its departmental budget of £4 billion in improving and enhancing its IT systems. The key aspects of the improvement programme are detailed in the 2009-10 HMRC Business Plan published on the HMRC website.

Seaton Delaval Hall

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response time has been agreed between the District Valuer and HM Revenue and Customs to assess the value of the Seaton Delaval Hall estate for the purpose of offers in lieu. [283269]

Mr. Timms: Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency the target is to report formal inheritance tax cases within an average of 80 working days but complex cases can take longer. The district valuer is giving this particular case urgent attention.

Tax: Revenues

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of public debt interest as a percentage of tax revenue in each of the next five years. [283227]

Mr. Byrne: Projections for debt interest to 2010-11 are shown in Table C9 of the Budget 2009 document. Projections for current receipts to 2013-14 are shown in Table C4 of the same document.

Debt interest to 2010-11 has been forecast consistent with the economic assumptions and policy decisions set out in Budget 2009.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department does not hold information on the number of claims for non-domiciled status for tax purposes which have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [282545]

Mr. Timms: Under the self assessment tax regime, individuals who are not domiciled in the UK can claim the remittance basis of taxation. If they do so, HMRC may accept that return or they may open an inquiry into the domicile issue. As a result of that inquiry the individual and HMRC may agree the domicile was correct or incorrect. There is no central record of the number of these inquiries where domicile was considered.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was collected in amusement machine licence duty in respect of each category of amusement machine in each year since its inception. [283252]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLD) is collected by HM Revenue and Customs, not the Gambling Commission.

Information on AMLD receipts broken down by machine category is not available. The total annual monthly receipts from amusement machine licence duty can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting and Gaming Statistical Bulletin, which is available from the HMRC website address at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Taxation: Pensioners

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of income tax relief on pension contributions which will accrue to *(a)* 45 per cent. taxpayers and *(b)* 40 per cent. taxpayers in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [269841]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the income tax exemption of pension contributions as a result of the introduction of the 45 per cent. tax rate from 2011-12 in the first 12 months of operation; and if he will make a statement. [269842]

Mr. Timms: The Government announced that the introduction in April 2011 of a 45 per cent. top rate of income tax will be replaced by a 50 per cent. rate applying to income over £150,000 from April 2010. This was accompanied by an announcement that tax relief on pension contributions will be restricted for those with incomes over £150,000. Relief will be tapered away so that for those with incomes of £180,000 and over it is worth 20 per cent. the same as to a basic rate taxpayer.

It is estimated that in 2011-12, around 13 per cent. of tax relief on individual and employee pension contributions will accrue to additional higher rate taxpayers and 49 per cent. will accrue to higher rate taxpayers.

Data on employer contributions are not available.

Taxation: Rebates

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 982-83W, on taxation: rebates, what the longest time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process an application for a tax refund was in the last 12 months. [283178]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 906W.

Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1049-50W, on the Valuation Office, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of *(a)* the electronic capture of hard copy records project board and *(b)* the installation of a geographical information system project board. [279797]

Mr. Timms: The minutes of both the electronic capture of hard copy records project board and the geographical information system project board are commercially sensitive.

However, progress on each of the projects has been published in the VOA's Annual Report and Forward Plan and has been reported in answer to previous questions given to the hon. Member on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1086W and to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1050W.

Valuation Office Agency: Pay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any performance-related incentives are available to staff of the Valuation Office Agency. [282631]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency operates a performance related particularly significant contribution award scheme which rewards staff who consistently deliver a level of performance above expectations while meeting all of their objectives throughout the performance year.

In conjunction with the annual performance process, the Agency operates a recognition voucher scheme which can be used to recognise specific examples of commendable performance at the time it is achieved.

HEALTH

Abortion

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of legal abortions carried out on women aged under 18 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [282864]

Gillian Merron: There were 19,387 abortions performed on women under 18 in 2008 in England and Wales.

Alcohol and Drug Misuse: Elderly

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged over 65 years old resident in each local authority area were treated for *(a)* alcohol-related and *(b)* drug-related health problems in each year since 1997. [illegible]

Gillian Merron: The information available on the number of people aged over 65 who received specialist treatment for drug dependence from 2004-05 by local drug action team and alcohol related admissions from 2002-03 by local authority has been placed in the Library.

Notes:

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse began collecting data on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) in April 2004. The NDTMS collects information about clients in contact with structured drug treatment in England.

Others may have received treatment for drug related health problems in other settings, which do not report via the NDTMS.

The number of alcohol-related admissions provided is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. However, data using this methodology is only available from 2002-03 onwards. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for alcohol-related conditions for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 13, (iii) 14 to 17 and (iv) 18 or more years old in (A) each region and (B) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [281388]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Library. However, it should be noted that to protect patient confidentiality it is not possible to provide primary care trust (PCT) level data for the age groups under 10, 10 to 13 and 14 to 17-years-old. Therefore, data have been provided for under 18 years old and over 18 years old, additionally for some PCTs it has been necessary to combine these two age groups to protect patient confidentiality.

Carer's Allowance

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the level of the carer's allowance will next be reviewed. [281397]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 June 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The level of carer's allowance is reviewed annually in order to establish whether it has retained its value in relation to the general level of prices in Great Britain. Following the last review in 2008, the rate was increased from £50.55 to £53.10 a week from April 2009. The next such review will be conducted in the autumn.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people, *(b)* under 18 year-olds, *(c)* under 16 year-olds and *(d)* under 12 year-olds were given repeat drug rehabilitation treatment for each type of drug in each of the last five years. [282765]

Gillian Merron: Data regarding the number of people undergoing repeat drug rehabilitation treatment are not collected centrally.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons are for the 9 per cent. reduction in the pooled treatment budget for Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency in 2009-10; [280678]

(2) what funding has been given to Milton Keynes from the National Treatment Agency in each of the last five years; and how much has been so allocated in the next two years; [280679]

(3) how many problematic drug users *(a)* there were in Milton Keynes and *(b)* received treatment in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years.[1] [280680]

Gillian Merron: Until 2008-09 the pooled treatment budget (PTB) was allocated against a basket of indicators of social and economic deprivation known to reflect drug use as the best available proxy of treatment need. As a result of differences in performance between drug partnerships in getting people into treatment this funding formula was resulting in unjustifiable variations in the amount of central subvention for each person's treatment.

2009-10 is the second year of a process which seeks to produce a fairer allocation system which more accurately matches need, activity and resources.

The new process is based on three elements:

25 per cent. of the allocation is based on the indicators underpinning the previous formula to reflect the differential cost of responding to different levels of complex need such as homelessness, mental heath, family breakdown and unemployment;

75 per cent. is based on activity in the treatment system with areas being allocated a set amount per person treated effectively; and

The final element is an area cost adjustment figure to reflect the varying costs of delivering services in different part of the country.

To promote an orderly alteration to service planning, the change is being introduced over three years with the annual maximum reduction set at 5 per cent. in 2008-09, 15 per cent. in 2009-10 and 30 per cent. in 2010-11.

Funding allocated to Milton Keynes in each of the last five years is tabled as follows:

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 32MC.]*

	£
2005-06	1,066,714
2006-07	1,221,155
2007-08	1,221,155
2008-09	1,165,052
2009-10	1,084,242

For the next two years, the indicative amount for 2010-11 is £925,000 (announced January 2008). This, however, was based on performance at the time predicted to grow at 1 per cent. a year. Growth in Milton Keynes is currently anticipated to be in excess of this so the final allocation may increase. The exact allocation will not be known until January 2010.

Based on data collected by the university of Glasgow covering the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse have advised Milton Keynes that an estimated 930 problematic drug users (PDUs) should be used for planning purposes. However, there is insufficient data on the number of PDUs to determine how the PDU population has changed over time.

The number of PDUs in treatment in Milton Keynes for each of the last fives years is tabled as follows:

	Number
2004-05	149
2005-06	221
2006-07	264
2007-08	337
2008-09	437

Elderly: Health Services

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's prevention package for older people; and if he will make a statement. [282263]

Phil Hope: We aim to publish the prevention package for older people in the summer.

Fluoridation

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department received requesting fluoridation of the public water supply in each year since 2000. [282243]

Ann Keen: Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 made strategic health authorities responsible for responding to requests to fluoridate a water supply. We have no record of any letters requesting the Department to fluoridate a water supply since 2000.

Fluoridation: North West

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the North West Fluoridation Evaluation Group set up by the North West Strategic Health Authority have expressed public opposition to fluoridation of public drinking water in the North West. [282241]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated capital cost is of implementing the fluoridation of public drinking water in the North West. [282242]

Ann Keen: The capital costs will depend upon the extent of the areas it is proposed to fluoridate and are likely to be spread over a number of years. We understand that the North West strategic health authority has received estimates of between £24 million for fluoridating one area of the region and £105 million for a scheme extending more widely across the region. The figures must be seen in the context of the £2.7 billion spent annually on national health service dentistry.

Fractures: Elderly

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 623W, on fractures: elderly, to which independent inspectorates primary care trusts have to demonstrate that they are meeting their responsibilities with regard to implementing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidance on fragility fractures, falls and osteoporosis. [282264]

Phil Hope: The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. They are the body to which primary care trusts have to demonstrate that they are meeting their responsibilities with regard to implementing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidance on fragility fractures, falls and osteoporosis.

Health Services: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure on *(a)* primary care and *(b)* hospital care in the London Borough of Islington in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) each of the next four years. [283091]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

The London borough of Islington is covered by Islington primary care trust (PCT). PCTs fund primary care and hospital care services from their revenue allocations. The following table provides the funding allocated to Islington PCT for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

	Allocation (£000)		*Two year increase*	
PCT	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*£000*	*Percentage*
Islington PCT	412,126	433,316	41,655	10.6

Revenue allocations post 2010-11 have not yet been determined.

Once the allocations have been made, it is for PCTs to commission the health care services they need to meet the needs of the populations they serve, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS operating framework.

Hospitals

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds on the average period between the arrival at *(a)* Papworth Hospital, *(b)* Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, *(c)* Basildon Hospital and *(d)* all hospitals in England of a patient needing an emergency angioplasty to the time at which the balloon begins to inflate in the patient's artery. [282136]

Ann Keen: Data from the national audit of treatment of heart attack[1] show that the average periods between arrival at hospital for emergency angioplasty and balloon inflation are:

Papworth—32 minutes;

Norfolk and Norwich—77 minutes (five patients in 2008-09);

Basildon Hospital—no data—primary angioplasty programme due to start in the autumn; and

All hospitals in England—73 minutes (see following note).

Note:

The average of all hospitals includes hospitals with large numbers of emergency angioplasty patients and hospitals which have recently started an emergency angioplasty programme with small number of patients. A more meaningful figure is the average for all patients in England which is 60 minutes.

[1] *Source:*

Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project—data for 2008-09 based on admission diagnosis.

Local Investment Finance Trust Schemes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of changes to international financial reporting standards on *(a)* capital accounting in relation to and *(b)* recurrent costs of (i) existing and (ii) proposed local investment finance trust schemes; and if he will make a statement. [282521]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) apply to public sector accounts with effect from 2009-10. Departmental end-of-year accounts will be prepared on this basis, including those of national health service primary care trusts.

In preparation for the introduction of IFRS from 2009-10, the Department assessed the impact should all NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) projects come on to the public sector balance sheet. It was estimated that NHS LIFT assets with an aggregate value of £105 million could come on balance sheet in 2009-10.

Schemes coming on balance sheet will also create a recurring additional revenue impact in the NHS accounts. For 2009-10, it was estimated that this would amount to a total of £36 million for NHS LIFT schemes. The Department's assessment also included consideration of proposed NHS LIFT projects.

HM Treasury published consolidated budgeting guidance (IFRS updated) on 12 June 2009. This included a chapter on the budgeting treatment of private finance initiative schemes, including NHS LIFT, under IFRS. The Department is working to establish exactly how this guidance will be applied in the health sector and will issue advice and guidance to the NHS in due course.

Malaria

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred by the NHS on the treatment of malaria in each of the last five years. [282879]

Gillian Merron: There has been no estimate made of national health service expenditure on the treatment of malaria in the past five years.

Malaria does not naturally occur in the United Kingdom. Cases in the UK are imported. The following table shows the number of cases diagnosed in the UK since 1999 by the Health Protection Agency's Special Pathogens Reference Unit.

Cases diagnosed

	Number
1999	2,045
2000	2,069
2001	2,050
2002	1,945
2003	1,722
2004	1,660
2005	1,754
2006	1,758
2007	1,548
2008	1,370

Source:

Data provided by the Health Protection Agency's Malaria Reference Laboratory.

Malnutrition

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* extent and *(b)* incidence of malnutrition in England. [281243]

Gillian Merron: There is no national assessment of the extent and incidence of malnutrition.

To improve the nutrition of the population, an independent Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board was set up to monitor progress against the actions named in the plan, chaired by Gordon Lishman, ex-director general of Age Concern. The board will submit its final report in summer 2009.

NHS Business Services Authority

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent employees are employed by the NHS Business Services Authority in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne; [282203]

(2) what his policy is on inviting in-house bids for IT applications and systems developments in the NHS Business Services Authority; [282204]

(3) where the NHS Business Services Authority's *(a)* data centres and *(b)* service centres are located; how many people are employed at each location; and whether potential future locations for such centres have been identified. [282205]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are 1,103.58 whole-time equivalent employees working at NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) within the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

There is no policy within NHSBSA relating to inviting in-house bids for information technology (IT) applications and systems developments. As part of the business case process associated with any bid opportunities, the existing in-house solutions are examined and considered in terms of their capability to deliver against the objectives set out in the business case.

Information on NHSBSA's IT centres and staff employed is shown in the following table.

NHSBSA staff split by function and location as at 31 May 2009

NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) data centre and service centre locations	*(A) Total NHSBSA staff employed at 31 May 2009*	*(B) Number of IT data centre staff employed by the NHSBSA (included in total column A)*
Corporate HQ and services (including finance, HR, commercial)		
Newcastle	140	—
Prescription services		
Newcastle	676	7
Wakefield	290	—
Bolton	325	—
West Bromwich (closes 31 July 2009)	121	—
Patient services and student grants		
Newcastle	263	—
Fleetwood	88	—
Pensions		
Fleetwood	405	—
Dental		
Eastbourne	76	—
Supply chain management		
Alfreton	14	—
Counter fraud and security management		
London	84	3
Regional offices (x 8)	56	—
Total	2,500	10

Potential future locations for these data and service centres have not been determined.

NHS Innovation Expo

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects the NHS Innovation Expo event to cost; and from the budgets of which NHS organisations funds will be drawn for that event. [278485]

Gillian Merron: The Healthcare Innovation Expo was the biggest public sector event of its type and brought together the best in healthcare innovation from the public, private, voluntary, scientific and academic communities. It was a unique combination of:

an innovative trade fair including a diversity of exhibitors;

a high profile main stage speaker programme;

a comprehensive programme of innovation seminars; and

an interactive on and off multimedia event.

Net cost to the Department for the NHS Innovation Expo is expected to be £630,000.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement will contribute a further £350,000.

The Department has worked closely with the private sector to deliver this event; in total they are expected to contribute a further £1.2 million.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people he expects to attend the NHS Innovation Expo event. [278622]

Gillian Merron: Total registrations for the Expo were 5,882. Delegates include national health service and social care chief executives, clinicians, front-line staff, managers and others from patient and other voluntary organisations, academics and researchers in industry.

The Healthcare Innovation Expo was the biggest public sector event of its type and brought together the best in healthcare innovation from the public, private, voluntary, scientific and academic communities. It was a unique combination of:

an innovative trade fair including a diversity of exhibitors;

a high profile main stage speaker programme;

a comprehensive programme of innovation seminars; and

an interactive on and off multimedia event.

NHS: Death Rates

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 628W, on NHS: death rates, how many alerts the Healthcare Commission received in respect of each patient group between July 2008 and March 2009. [282938]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1079W on NHS: Death Rate, which details how many alerts the Healthcare Commission received in respect of each patient group between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009.

NHS: Religious Practice

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the NHS budget has been spent on *(a)* (i) chaplaincy and (ii) other religious services for each faith and *(b)* other similar non-faith services. [282818]

Phil Hope: National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on chaplaincy and related services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

The Department's guidance for the NHS is set out in "NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual Needs of Patients and Staff" (November 2003). A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether provision is made within the NHS for staff training in meditation techniques. [283118]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally as any decision to provide staff training in meditation techniques would be taken locally.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the Nutrition Delivery Action Plan Delivery Board's report. [283264]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 228W.

Obesity: Medical Treatments

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of each age under the age of 18 years were prescribed medicine on the NHS to help them lose weight in each of the last three years; and what types of medicine have been prescribed for this purpose. [282485]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not available in the format requested relating to the number of people prescribed medicine.

Data are available from the NHS Information Centre on the total number of prescription items for drugs dispensed in England in the community for the treatment of obesity over the last three years. This information is provided in the following table:

	British National Formulary chemical name	*Items*
2006	Diethylpropion Hydrochloride	7
	Orlistat	775,718
	Phentermine	15
	Rimonabant	23,532
	Sibutramine	264,403
2006 total		1,063,675
2007	Diethylpropion Hydrochloride	3
	Orlistat	828,795
	Rimonabant	113,172
	Sibutramine	294,999
2007 total		1,236,969
2008	Diethylpropion Hydrochloride	6
	Orlistat	849,809
	Rimonabant	106,720
	Sibutramine	325,701
2008 total		1,282,236

Obesity: Surgery

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age category under the age of 18 years underwent surgery for obesity in each of the last three years; and what surgical treatments have been administered to treat the condition. [282484]

Gillian Merron: The requested data are not available. However, the following table provides data on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for patients under 18 year olds (0-17 years old) with a primary diagnosis of obesity[1] and a main or secondary procedure of Bariatric Surgery[2] for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08:

	Total FCEs
2005-06	4
2006-07	2
2007-08	6

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[1] *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. The ICD-10 codes used to identify Obesity is as follows

E66—Obesity

Main procedure

The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

Secondary procedure

As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 23 (11 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and three prior to 2002-03) secondary operative procedure fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care. [2] *Number of episodes with 'Bariatric Surgery' as a main or secondary procedure*

These figures represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. It should be noted that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

The OPCS-4.2 procedure codes for bariatric surgery in years 2005-06 to 2007-08 are:

G01.2 Oesophagogastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to transposed jejunum
G01.3 Oesophagogastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to jejunum nec
G27.1 Total gastrectomy and excision of surrounding tissue
G27.2 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G27.3 Total gastrectomy and interposition of jejunum
G27.4 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to transposed jejunum
G27.5 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to jejunum nec
G27.8 Other specified total excision of stomach
G27.9 Unspecified total excision of stomach
G28.1 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G28.2 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G28.3 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach jejunum nec
G28.8 Other specific partial excision of stomach
G28.9 Unspecified partial excision of stomach
G30.1 Gastroplasty nec
G30.2 Partitioning of stomach nec
G30.8 Other specified plastic operations on stomach
G30.9 Unspecified plastic operations on stomach
G31.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G31.2 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.3 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.4 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.8 Other specified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to duodenum

G32.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.8 Other specified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.3 Conversion of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.8 Other specified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.9 Unspecified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G38.8 Other specified other open operations on stomach
G48.1 Insertion of gastric bubble
G48.2 Attention to gastric bubble

The following additional four digit OPCS-4.3 and OPCS-4.4 codes are used in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 data (these are in addition to the OPCS 4.2 codes listed above):

G28.4 Sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch
G28.5 Sleeve gastrectomy nec
G30.3 Partitioning of stomach using band
G30.4 Partitioning of stomach using staples
G31.5 Closure of connection of stomach and duodenum
G31.6 Attention to connection of stomach and duodenum
G32.4 Closure of connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.5 Attention to connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.5 Closure of connection of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.6 Attention to connection of stomach to jejunum
G38.7 Removal of gastric band
G71.6 Duodenal switch

The term "bariatric surgery" is often used to define a group of procedures that can be performed to facilitate weight loss although these procedures can be performed for conditions other than weight loss.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Respite Care

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve co-operation between primary care trusts and local authorities in planning, commissioning and funding short break services. [283058]

Phil Hope: The NHS Operating Framework 2009-10 states that primary care trusts (PCTs) should work with their local authority partners and publish joint plans on how their combined funding will support breaks for carers, including short breaks, in a personalised way. PCTs are therefore aware of this additional funding and it is for PCTs to decide how to use this funding in the light of local priorities. Local authorities and PCTs are accountable to their local communities and it is for them to find appropriate ways to work together to support carers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282328]

Mr. Michael Foster: None of the Department for International Development's non-departmental public bodies has paid interest under the Act in the last three years.

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on water coolers in each of the last six months. [282284]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not use water coolers in its UK offices. Drinking water is provided by means of filtered chilled tap water.

Information on water coolers in our overseas offices is not centrally available and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of its website in each year since 2007. [282320]

Mr. Michael Foster: Maintenance costs of the Department for International Development's website were:

	£
2007-08	120,420
2008-09	173,637

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds his Department employs. [282291]

Mr. Michael Foster: Declaration of ethnicity is voluntary at the Department for International Development (DFID). As at the end of March 2009, and where ethnicity of our home civil service (HCS) staff in post is known, there were 154 staff with a declared ethnic minority background. This represents 12.4 per cent. of our HCS staff.

Departmental Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 years. [282314]

Mr. Michael Foster: According to departmental records, the Department for International Development (DFID) has issued 633 press releases since January 2004.

DFID's press release archive does not go further back than this.

Departmental Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on health and safety training in each of the last two years. [282310]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last two years the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £28,177 on health and safety training. These figures cover training conducted in DFID's UK headquarters. Information on training courses arranged by our overseas offices is not collated centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate costs.

International Women's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on promoting International Women's Day 2009. [282318]

Mr. Michael Foster: To mark International Women's Day, the Department for International Development (DFID) promoted work on violence against women, a policy issue of major concern to the UK Government and civil society partners in the UK and developing countries. Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Ivan Lewis) hosted an exhibit commissioned by the non-governmental organisation Action Aid as part of a wider display of information in DFID's London office on the issue of violence against women. This was accompanied by a series of lunchtime films on gender issues shown during the week of 9 March. Non-staff costs incurred by these activities came to less than £200.

In addition, some DFID country offices used the occasion of International Women's Day to highlight work on gender issues in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For example, in Sierra Leone, DFID committed £16,000 to support awareness-raising activities on the issue of maternal mortality during February and March.

Investing for Development

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking in response to the recommendations of the Eighteenth Report of the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 2008-09, HC94, on Investing for Development. [282635]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are currently preparing a formal response to the recommendations in the 18th Report by the Committee of Public Accounts (2008-09) on Investing for Development: the Department for International Development's Oversight of CDC Group plc. This response will be set out in a Treasury minute to be presented to Parliament and published on 16 July 2009.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent clearing mines from Iraq since 2001. [282341]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent approximately £5 million clearing mines from Iraq since 2001.

Overseas Aid: Emergency Services

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 834W, on overseas aid: emergency services, what estimate he has made of the expenditure which will be incurred by the UK Fire and Rescue Service in undertaking its duties under the agreement on organisation of the overseas search and rescue capability in disaster response. [282166]

Mr. Michael Foster: Expenditure incurred by the UK Fire and Rescue Service in undertaking overseas search and rescue operations cannot be predicted in advance but will depend on the requirements in each response.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed a budget for the UK Fire and Rescue Service to train, equip and maintain its readiness to provide search and rescue response of £241,230 over the three years 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 834W, on overseas aid: emergency services, what plans there are for members of the UK Fire and Rescue Service to attend international disaster-related training events and conferences in the next 12 months. [282194]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Fire and Rescue Service so far plans to take part in the following events in the next year:

October, 2009 - International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Africa, Europe and Middle-East Regional Meeting in Hungary.

2010 - Regional Team Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi; and

possibly a multi-regional INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting, location to be determined.

Overseas Aid: Indonesia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken in respect of aid and assistance to those working in the rubber trade in Indonesia. [282282]

Mr. Michael Foster: Between February and March this year, the Department for International Development (DFID) funded work in Indonesia which produced first hand, up to date information on how the global economic crisis was affecting small-scale rubber producers. That work helped to inform the Indonesian Government's understanding of which sectors of the economy and which communities are most vulnerable to the current economic shock.

DFID programmes in Indonesia do not specifically target those working in the rubber trade. But earlier this year DFID provided an additional £4 million in support for the Indonesian Government's main national social protection scheme, which aims to provide assistance to households facing increased hardship because of the global economic downturn.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical assistance the Government plans to provide to Sri Lanka for de-mining the former conflict zones in the north of the country; and if he will make a statement. [281975]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) recently committed an additional £5 million of humanitarian funding for continuing life-saving response activities as well as early recovery work. Our early recovery work will include de-mining and we stand by ready to support funds for humanitarian de-mining agencies with strong capacity in country such as the Mines Action Group (MAG). DFID is providing no financial or technical support for humanitarian de-mining activities directly to the Government of Sri Lanka.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Malaria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the provision of mosquito nets in sub-Saharan Africa. [282315]

Mr. Thomas: Representatives of Malaria No More met with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Michael Foster) on 10 June 2009. I understand there has been no other formal representation made to Ministers since 1 January 2009 at which the issue of the provision of bed nets in sub-Saharan Africa has been raised.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to support elections in Sudan; and how such funding will be disbursed. [281964]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) earmarked £11 million to support the electoral process in Sudan.

DFID has already provided £1 million for media, civic education and electoral conflict management programmes, and £1.5 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its preparatory support to the elections. The National Elections Commission has yet to present its overall strategy, but once we are content with this plan, we will be able to transfer remaining funds to UNDP and determine any further support the UK may provide.

UK funding supports a range of activities: voter and civic education through local organisations, training workshops for journalists and programmes to support media monitoring, support to domestic observer groups, assistance to the National Elections Commission and training for the Political Parties Affairs Council.

United Nations: Females

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on United Nations: females, what proposals his Department has put forward for the *(a)* remit and *(b)* leadership of a United Nations Agency for Women; and if he will make a statement. [282321]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are arguing for the creation of a single powerful agency for women, merging existing bodies, with a strong visible leader.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum *(a)* number of hours a week for an apprenticeship and *(b)* number of guided learning hours for an apprenticeship framework will be for apprentices aged 16 and 17 following the raising of the age of participation in education or training to 18. [283050]

Mr. Iain Wright: At present, there is no minimum number of hours a week for an apprenticeship. The minimum number of hours spent each week on an apprenticeship is a matter for agreement between employer and apprentice.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill which is currently before Parliament would give the Secretary of State the power to bring forward regulations through a Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England to set out the minimum requirements for all apprenticeship frameworks delivered in England. We expect these regulations to include a requirement that all frameworks must include a minimum of 280 guided learning hours per year. Subject to the will of Parliament, this would ensure that all apprentices aged 16 and 17 would benefit from the minimum level of learning guided learning required to be considered as being engaged in education and training.

Child Workforce Development Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to the Children's Workforce Development Council in each year since its creation. [282013]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was established in 2005. The allocation for each financial year from Department Children, Schools and Families[1] was:

	£
2005-06	960,000
2006-07	31,921,000
2007-08	55,181,000
2008-09	82,454,000

Note:

For the current financial year, 2009-10, the available allocation is £106,070,875

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[1] Or it's predecessor DFES.

Children in Care: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in care in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [274241]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of looked after children in Essex is available from table LAA1 in the Statistical First Release entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008', which is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table LAA1 can be found within the first set of additional tables.

Information on the number of looked after children are only collected by the Department at local authority level; therefore information for Castle Point is not available.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age group and *(c)* ethnic group were reported missing from local authority care in the last 12 months. [273287]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March who went missing from their placements by gender, age at 31 March, and ethnic origin[1,2,3,4]—Years ending 31 March 2008; Coverage: England

	All children looked after who went missing from care (number)
Gender	980
Male	510
Female	470
Age at 31 March (years)	980
Under 1	—
1 to 4	10
5 to 9	10
10 to 15	440
16 and over	520
Ethnic origin	980
White	
White British	640
White Irish	10
Any other White background	40
Mixed	
White and Black Caribbean	40
White and Black African	10
White and Asian	10
Any other mixed background	30
Asian or Asian British	
Indian	10
Pakistani	10
Bangladeshi	0
Any other Asian background	40
Black or Black British	
Caribbean	40
African	40
Any other Black background	20
Other ethnic groups	
Chinese	20
Any other ethnic group	40

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[2] Children who went missing on more than one occasion during the year have been counted once.

[3] Includes looked after children who were missing from care for a period of more than 24 hours.

[4] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers of five or less have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (—) except where the number is zero.

Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that computers infected with malware are prevented from gaining access to the ContactPoint database. [274317]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Before any organisation can connect to ContactPoint they are subject to an accreditation process which ensures that they have in place the necessary regulatory, security and operational requirements. This provides assurance that the use of ContactPoint is subject to appropriate supervision, monitoring and controls.

As part of the accreditation process each organisation must demonstrate that they have appropriate security policies and processes in place for protection from malware, viruses and spyware. They are also required to show that content analysis is performed on incoming and outgoing data, including the virus checking of emails and attachments. These checks will provide assurance that workstations are free from known threats such as malware or spyware before they are used to access ContactPoint and are protected from any future compromise.

Children's Centres: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in Tamworth constituency; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of such provision for children under five in Tamworth. [282582]

Dawn Primarolo: Tamworth currently has six designated Sure Start children's centres, offering access to services to over 6,300 children under five and their families.

In general Staffordshire is making good progress with the establishment and development of children's centres. It is a major programme which I understand has been well managed, with good community involvement, consultation and links to extended services in schools.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279516]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281015]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families estimates that the tonnage of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for administrative operations by the Department is as follows.

The data requested were for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

The carbon emissions arising from road-based transport for staff in *(a)* 2006-07 was 935 tonnes with 0.271 full-time equivalent staff *(b)* 2007-08 was 1479 tonnes with 0.534 full-time equivalent staff.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281016]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is as follows:

The data requested were for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

The carbon emissions arising from air travel for staff in *(a)* 2006-07 was 432.05 with 0.125 for full-time equivalent staff *(b)* 2007-08 was 186.80 with 0.068 for full-time equivalent staff.

The data have been provided air travels bookings made by the Department's contractor for travel booking, Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many breaches of information security there have been at his Department and its predecessor in the last five years. [281069]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the last five years there have been seven breaches of information security. The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279423]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Attached is a list of newspapers and periodicals delivered to the private office of each Minister in the Department.

The overall cost of newspapers and periodicals delivered to the Ministers' office, for financial year 2008-09, was £6,851.21.

List of newspapers and periodicals delivered to each Minister's private office at the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Ed Balls

Newspapers

- *Daily Express*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Mirror*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening Standard*
- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Sun*
- *Times*
- *Times Higher*

Periodicals

- *Economist*
- *Private Eye*
- *New Statesman*
- *Spectator*

Sarah McCarthy-Fry/Andrew Adonis

Newspapers

- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Express*

- *Daily Mirror*
- *Sun*
- *Times*
- *Times Higher*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening Standard*

Periodicals

- *Economist*
- *New Statesman*
- *Spectator*
- *Times Educational Supplement*

Beverley Hughes

Newspapers

- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Mirror*
- *Sun*
- *Times*
- *Times Higher*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening Standard*
- *Daily Express*

Periodicals

- *Voice Weekly*
- *Community Care*
- *Nursery World*
- *Local Government Chronicle*
- *Health Service Journal*
- *Prospect*
- *First News*
- *Times Educational Supplement*
- *Economist*

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin/Kevin Brennan

Newspapers

- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Express*
- *Daily Mirror*
- *Sun*
- *Times*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening standard*
- *Western Mail*

Periodicals

- *Times Educational Supplement*

Jim Knight shared newspapers with Sarah McCarthy-Fry/Andrew Adonis' private office

Newspapers

- *Dorset Echo*

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281870]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not carried out an estimate of the proportion of statutory obligations deriving from EU law within its policy remit. The key policy areas within the Department's remit (education in schools, children's social care and substantive family law) fall outside community competence.

European Union: Primary Education

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information about the EU his Department provides to primary schools for teaching purposes. [282424]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not provide information about the European Union to schools. The proposed new primary curriculum, which is being consulted on, will provide opportunities for children to learn about Europe and the European Union. For example pupils should be taught about links between local, British, European and world history.

Further Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of year 11 pupils *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006, achieved a level 3 qualification within two years of completing their GCSEs; and if he will make a statement. [280172]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is shown in the following table. The higher progression rate to Level 3 at 18 among those not eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) who had gained at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and Maths, is partly a reflection of their higher average attainment in year 11 compared with their counterparts who were FSM eligible in year 11.

Number and proportion year 11 pupils gaining at least five GCSEs at A-C in year 11 including English and Maths who gain level 3 within two years, by eligibility for free school meals*

	Level 3 at 18[1]		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Base*[2]
Entitled to free school meals[3]			
2004	9,800	65.8	14,800
2005	9,200	64.4	14,300
2006	8,500	64.6	13,100
Not entitled to free school meals[3]			
2004	183,300	76.7	238,900
2005	178,000	76.6	232,300
2006	171,800	77.4	221,900

[1] Level 3 within two years of year 11 (e.g. 2006 for 2004 year 11 cohort).

[2] The base is total number gaining five or more GCSEs grades A*-C in year 11 including English and Maths.

[3] Based on eligibility for free school meals in year 11 for those in maintained provision only) as eligibility for free school meals in year 11 is not available for the independent sector).

Source:

Matched Administrative Dataset.

Outdoor Education

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding his Department has given to the Learning Outside the Classroom programme in each of the last three years; and what funding has been allocated to the programme for each of the next three years; [282418]

(2) how many schools have indicated their support for the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto in each year since its launch; [282419]

(3) how many children of each age in each region experienced learning outside the classroom in each of the three years *(a)* before and *(b)* after the launch of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. [282420]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A breakdown of the Department's investment in England into the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) programme is set out as follows:

Financial year	*Funding (£)*
2006-07	1,750,000
2007-08	1,560,000
2008-09	1,500,000

This year the Department is funding the newly established Council for Learning Outside the Classroom £740,000 to take forward the aims of the Manifesto. Funding beyond this financial year has not yet been agreed.

There are currently 1,698 signatories to the Manifesto, including 199 schools. We also know from the huge interest and enthusiasm from schools for last year's LOtC Awards that schools and teachers recognise the importance of different activities outside of the classroom in supporting learning and development for their young people.

The Department does not collect data on how many children experience learning outside the classroom. However, we know that most schools do provide learning outside the classroom and recognise its importance. The 2006 NFER survey confirmed that schools were doing the same, or more, learning outside the classroom than before and they expect to do the same or more in future. Changes to the secondary curriculum are designed to encourage 'curriculum opportunities' outside the classroom and the proposed new primary curriculum, to be introduced from 2011, which is currently subject to consultation, will also reflect the need for teachers to engage pupils with these experiences.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in each region who were subject to *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed-term exclusion from school were entitled to free school meals in the latest year for which figures are available. [279462]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information available on the number of exclusions (not the number of children) for 2006/07 is shown in the table. Some pupils may be excluded more than once.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1]: Number and proportion of permanent and fixed period exclusions for pupils who were eligible for free school meals[2] [3]—2006/07

	Type of exclusion			
	Permanent		*Fixed period*	
Government office region	*Number*	*Proportion[3]*	*Number*	*Proportion[4]*
North East	210	49.6	7,200	39.3
North West	540	43.2	22,160	37.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	290	43.0	17,810	34.6
East Midlands	280	31.1	9,820	29.0
West Midlands	450	41.7	16,980	36.9
East of England	240	29.3	11,320	25.2
London	620	43.9	22,170	41.2
Inner London	230	48.2	9,190	48.4
Outer London	390	41.6	12,980	37.3
South East	380	27.8	19,530	25.8
South West	210	27.0	11,340	26.5
Total	3,210	37.0	138,320	32.5

[1] Includes primary, state funded secondary, and maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[2] Pupils who were eligible for free school meals at the time of the January 2007 census.

[3] Number of permanent exclusions of pupils who were eligible for free school meals as a proportion of all permanent exclusions by region. Total number of exclusions includes pupils whose free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

[4] Number of fixed period exclusions of pupils who were eligible for free school meals as a proportion of all fixed period exclusions by region. Total number of exclusions includes pupils whose free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals were not entered for a modern foreign language GCSE in each year since 2005. [277958]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information available is given in the following table:

How many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals were not entered for a modern foreign language GCSE in each year since 2006

	Number	*Percentage*
2008	55,342	74.1
2007	53,416	72.4
2006	54,242	69.5

Source:
National Pupil Database.

The data are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

The data for 2005 are not provided as they are not available on a comparable basis.

This table included expenditure on education by other Government departments, non-department public bodies and local authorities. Detailed figures are not readily available for future years for these other organisations.

Note:

The Real Total Education Expenditure figure for 2006-07 should read 61,569 and not 51,569. All other figures on the table are correct. A correction slip is being issued and the web version amended.

Pupils: Disadvantaged and Special Educational Needs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of pupils in *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* grammar schools were eligible for free school meals in the last year for which figures are available; [280239]

(2) what percentage of pupils in *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* grammar schools had special educational needs in the last year for which figures are available. [280240]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the following tables:

State-funded secondary[1] and grammar schools: free school meal eligibility as at January 2009 (provisional) in England

	Grammar schools	*Secondary schools*
Number of pupils[2]	158,610	3,236,120
Number of pupils eligible for FSM	3,210	434,860
Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM	2.0	13.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, and CTCs and Academies.
[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

State-funded secondary[1] and grammar schools: special educational needs as at January 2009 (provisional) in England

	Grammar schools	*Secondary schools*
Number of pupils[2]	158,610	3,236,120
Number of pupils with statements of SEN	350	64,950
Percentage of pupils with statements of SEN	0.2	2.0
Number of pupils with SEN without statements	6,230	620,450
Percentage of pupils with SEN without statements	3.9	19.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, and CTCs and Academies.
[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure per school pupil in Plymouth was in each year since 1989. [283267]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on the average expenditure per school pupil in Plymouth is shown in the table.

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary, secondary and special schools from 1992-93 to 2007-08

Part A: Total (including pre-primary)

	1992-93	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*
England	1,960	1,950	1,990	2,020	2,060	2,080	2,190
Plymouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,090
Pre LGR Devon	1,870	1,830	1,900	1,890	1,970	1,980	—

Part B

	1999-2000		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
	Total (including pre-primary)	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*
England	2,390	2,370	2,620	2,590	2,940	2,900
Plymouth	2,340	2,320	2,620	2,600	2,920	2,890
Pre LGR Devon	—	—	—	—	—	—

Part C: Total (excluding pre-primary)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England	2,950	3,230	3,440	3,710	3,950	4,170

	Part C: Total (excluding pre-primary)					
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Plymouth	2,930	3,140	3,400	3,680	3,900	4,150
Pre LGR Devon	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 form from the DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown as parts B and C. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from section 52 outturn table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from section 52 outturn table 3 for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.

3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DFES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990s and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR are shaded out for those years.

6. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

7. The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance. Consequently LAs where there entire pupil provision were educated in GM schools will show a unit cost of zero prior to 1999-2000.

8. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.

9. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.

10. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 26 June.

Schools: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the spending on education identified on page 173 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, Cm 7595, is expenditure on schools; and if he will make a statement. [282870]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The proportion of expenditure on education identified on page 173 of the Departmental Report 2009, which relates to schools, is as follows:

Financial year	Percentage Proportion
1997-98	65.0
1998-99	65.4
1999-00	67.6
2000-01	68.6
2001-02	69.8
2002-03	69.9
2003-04	67.9
2004-05	68.1
2005-06	68.0
2006-07	67.8
2007-08	67.3
2008-09	66.9

Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with special educational needs are home schooled in each local authority area, broken down by the type of special educational need. [284487]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not centrally collect data on home educated children by type of special educational need.

Sure Start Programme: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on each Sure Start centre in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency in each year since such centres were established. [282571]

Dawn Primarolo: Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs), the forerunner of Sure Start Children's Centres, were introduced in waves from 1999-2000. There has been one trailblazer SSLP in Enfield since the beginning of the initiative.

From 2006-07, to reflect SSLPs transition to children's centres, the SSLP Grant was paid to local authorities together with children's centre funding as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (formerly the General Sure Start Grant). Under the terms and conditions of that grant, local authorities have a degree of freedom in the allocation and use of the funding provided to best meet their local objectives. Furthermore, in an effort to reduce the monitoring burden the Department only requires them to report expenditure at a local level, rather than by individual children's centre. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of expenditure by individual children's centre.

The following tables set out total expenditure on the SSLP and all children's centres in Enfield for each financial year since programme inception.

London borough of Enfield Sure Start Children's Centre Expenditure

	Expenditure						
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
SSLP Revenue	38,775	715,528	1,160,758	1,164,802	1,311,845	1,308,067	1,373,262
SSLP Capital	0	143,173	315,448	32,799	19,512	85,656	0
Children's Centre Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	75,792	842,401
Children's Centre Capital	0	0	0	0	0	195,082	1,424,112
Total Revenue	38,775	715,528	1,160,758	1,164,802	1,311,845	1,383,859	2,215,663
Total Capital	0	143,173	315,448	32,799	19,512	280,738	1,424,112
Grand total	38,775	858,701	1,476,206	1,197,601	1,331,357	1,664,597	3,639,775

	Expenditure		Allocation		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
SSLP Revenue	1,006,874	500,000	456,402	453,148	9,450,686
SSLP Capital	0	0	0	0	596,588
Children's Centre Revenue	2,037,493	2,440,685	4,606,498	5,988,268	15,991,137
Children's Centre Capital	1,337,013	1,183,315	694,755	1,454,749	6,289,026
Total Revenue	3,044,367	2,940,685	5,062,900	6,441,416	25,441,823
Total Capital	1,337,013	1,183,315	694,755	1,454,749	6,885,614
Grand total	4,381,380	4,124,000	5,757,655	7,896,165	32,327,437

Sure Start Programme: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent from the public purse on each Sure Start centre in each parliamentary constituency in the Lancashire County Council area in each year since the scheme's inception. [282073]

Dawn Primarolo: Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs), the forerunner of Sure Start children's centres, were introduced in waves from 1999-2000. By 2003-04 there were 17 SSLPs operating in Lancashire.

From 2006-07, to reflect SSLPs transition to children's centres, the SSLP Grant was paid to local authorities together with children's centre funding as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (formerly the General Sure Start Grant). Under the terms and conditions of that grant, local authorities have a degree of freedom in the allocation and use of the funding provided to best meet their local objectives. Furthermore, in an effort to reduce the monitoring burden the Department only requires them to report expenditure at a local level, rather than by individual children's centre. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of expenditure by individual SSLP or children's centre.

The following tables set out total expenditure on all SSLPs and children's centres in Lancashire for each financial year since programme inception.

Lancashire Sure Start Children's Centre Expenditure

	Expenditure					
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
SSLP Revenue	489,929	1,895,584	5,012,939	9,362,926	11,606,029	12,589,813
SSLP Capital	30,574	72,918	899,823	3,306,702	4,320,379	3,886,509
Children's Centre Revenue	0	0	0	0	9,023	2,514,650
Children's Centre Capital	0	0	0	0	90,870	4,638,150
Total Revenue	489,929	1,895,584	5,012,939	9,362,926	11,615,052	15,104,463
Total Capital	30,574	72,918	899,823	3,306,702	4,411,249	8,524,659
Grand total	520,503	1,968,502	5,912,762	12,669,628	16,026,301	23,629,122

	Expenditure		Allocation		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
SSLP Revenue	12,378,766	10,722,226	10,439,383	9,020,446	83,518,041
SSLP Capital	0	0	0	0	12,516,905
Children's Centre Revenue	5,021,283	7,111,296	11,852,273	15,344,023	41,852,548
Children's Centre Capital	7,536,935	7,211,720	1,272,514	3,302,854	24,053,044

	Expenditure		Allocation		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Total Revenue	17,400,049	17,833,522	22,291,656	24,364,469	125,370,589
Total Capital	7,536,921	7,211,735	1,272,514	3,302,854	36,569,949
Grand total	24,936,970	25,045,257	23,564,170	27,667,323	161,940,538

Teachers: Training

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on teachers: training, what recent discussions he has had with representatives of teachers' professional bodies and industry on teachers' continuing professional development; and what recent consideration he has given to teachers' participation in continuing professional development during school holidays. [282489]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has regular discussions with representatives of teachers' professional bodies and industry to discuss teachers' continuing professional development (CPD). He has not given recent consideration to teachers participating in CPD during school holidays.

Under the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), teachers are contracted to work under the direction of a head teacher for 1,265 hours over 195 days. They are required to teach and perform other duties for 190 of those days and are to be available for deployment at the head's discretion for the other five days to perform duties other than teaching. These five days are commonly known as school closure days and schools can and do use them for a variety of CPD/school planning activities. The timing and organisation of these days is entirely for individual local authorities, governing bodies, and head teachers to determine, but we look to them to be sensitive to local circumstances in deciding which days to choose.

No teacher may be required to work on any Saturday, Sunday or public holiday unless his or her contract of employment expressly provides for this.

In relation to teachers participating in CPD during school holidays, there is nothing to prohibit teachers undertaking such activity during those periods. However, head teachers, in carrying out their duties in deploying and managing staff, must have regard to the desirability of teachers being able to achieve a satisfactory balance between the time required to discharge their professional duties and the time required to pursue their personal interests outside work.

Young People: Carers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of young carers in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire. [282074]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2001 census, which is the only source of nationally comparable data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that there were some 300 children and young people aged under 18 in Chorley and 4,000 in Lancashire as a whole who were offering some care to family members, neighbours, friends or others.

The census records young people who are described by the adults in the household as offering care to their families or communities. This includes young people who are responsible for the care of a family member (which is how young carers are more usually defined) plus others who may provide more occasional support such as child care for their parents or care for neighbours and friends.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 1 July 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers: National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of people in receipt of carer's allowance who may have recourse to national insurance contribution credits in accordance with the provisions of the National Insurance Contribution Credits (Transfer of Functions) Order 2009; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of such credits in 2009-10. [282800]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* Since 1976, people receiving carer's allowance (formerly invalid care allowance) have normally been awarded National Insurance credits for weeks for which the allowance is paid unless they have a valid married women's election. The National Insurance Contributions Credits (Transfer of Functions) Order 2009 is an enabling instrument which allows HMRC to award and administer National Insurance credits on behalf of the Secretary of State. It does not provide for any new credits. However, it is anticipated that regulations will be introduced shortly which will extend the range of credits available for certain people engaged in caring from April 2010. These credits will have no monetary value in 2009-10 since they will not be available before 6 April 2010.

International Labour Organization

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister represented the UK at the recent International Labour Organization annual meeting. [282410]

Angela Eagle: At least one DWP Minister normally attends the annual International Labour Conference. My hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) was scheduled to attend the 2009 event but had to withdraw at very short notice due to unforeseen parliamentary business arising on the day of his planned visit.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter to her predecessor of 19 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J Harris. [283358]

Jim Knight: I refer my right hon. Friend to the replies given on 11 May 2009 and 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 571W and 1502W.

New Deal Schemes: South East

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent changes have been made to the methods of delivery of Flexible New Deal contracts in the south east district; and if she will make a statement. [282684]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* None. Following the announcement of the preferred bidders on 29 May 2009 we remain committed to bringing in the Flexible New Deal Phase 1 from October 2009. At this time, Phase 1 contracts have not been let.

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Tamworth constituency have claimed pension payments from the Pension Protection Fund in each year since its inception. [282740]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to the Tamworth constituency could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available is as follows:

The cumulative number of people in the UK whose pension scheme transferred into the Pension Protection Fund

Year ending 31 March	*People receiving compensation*	*People due to receive compensation on retirement*
2006	Nil	Nil
2007	1,457	5,621
2008	3,596	8,577
2009	12,778	17,737

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information her Department collects on benefit claims to assist in detecting fraudulent claims. [273207]

Helen Goodman: To detect both fraud and error once a benefit claim is active within our systems we match our data against that from other sources. We do this using a range of data from both other Government Departments and private sector sources. Data are extracted from these sources at routine intervals and matched against our benefit data to identify anomalies, which are then referred for investigation.

Social Security Benefits: Low Incomes

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department has made of the effect on customers from low-income socio-economic backgrounds of recent changes to the frequency of benefit payments. [275746]

Jim Knight: The changes made to frequencies and paydays are a key step in the, long-term, simplification of the benefits system. Before implementing this policy we consulted extensively with customer representative groups to ensure that customer's interests were fully considered.

We do, however, recognise that the initial move from weekly payments to fortnightly payments may be difficult for some of our customers but have addressed this by making a repayable loan equal to the customer's weekly benefit.

Unemployment

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have registered as unemployed at Jobcentre Plus in the last six months. [278310]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: The available information is in the following table:

Jobseeker's allowance—on-flows onto JSA for the last six months—Great Britain

Date	*On-flow*	*Off-flow*	*Net difference*
November 2008	350,920	265,555	85,365
December 2008	288,192	191,255	96,937
January 2009	290,785	163,585	127,200
February 2009	474,127	298,035	176,092
March 2009	336,234	272,085	64,149
April 2009	311,697	276,360	35,337

Notes:
1. This information is published on the Nomis website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Off-flow data are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK *(a)* citizens and *(b)* residents have been arrested by (i) British, (ii) International Security Assistance Forces, (iii) American and (iv) Afghan authorities in Afghanistan since 2001. [280191]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 June 2009]*: No UK nationals suspected of links to the insurgency have been arrested by British forces in Afghanistan since 2001.

Since 2004, the number of arrests on a variety of charges and not necessarily specifically linked to insurgency of UK nationals in Afghanistan by Afghan authorities is provided in the following table.

	Number of arrests[1]
2008-09	4
2007-08	4
2006-07	3
2005-06	3
2004-05	2

[1] From 2004-08 as reported in the Consular Annual Return from the British embassy Kabul and from 2008 as reported from the Consular Assistance Database held by the British Embassy Kabul. Information on arrests prior to 2004 and on arrests made by International Security Assistance or American Forces are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Air Force: Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cannibalisations of each type of RAF aircraft there have been in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* the last 12 months. [279952]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested covers a large number of aircraft and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Question of the 17 June 2009, (Official Report, column 334W) about the number of cannibalisations undertaken, broken down by each type of RAF aircraft, in each year since 2005 and in each of the last 12 months, once officials had completed collating the data.

As I am sure you will be aware, cannibalisation is where one aircraft benefits from the removal of serviceable parts from another. It is a routine and temporary measure to ensure that the maximum number of aircraft is available for front line duty.

The number of cannibalisations in each year since 2005 broken down by aircraft is provided in the following table.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Harrier (all types)	530	505	862	924
Tornado GR4	1,863	2,048	1,838	2,012
Tornado F3[1]	872	667	667	238
Typhoon	243	542	540	621
Nimrod MR2	510	224	344	151
Nimrod R1	48	61	41	69
Sea King	270	204	115	126
Tristar	154	182	126	90
VC10	177	82	167	148
Hercules C130K	203	167	185	207
Hercules C130J	662	691	591	541
Sentinel R1[2]	—	—	7	36
Sentry	51	140	81	95
BAe 125	58	49	23	46
BAe146	8	9	17	15
C17	40	45	39	39
Dominie	161	95	46	53
Hawk	415	398	241	135
Tucano	4	8	32	34

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Vigilant	10	29	20	24
Viking	4	1	2	0

[1] The drop in cannibalisations for the Tornado F3 in 2008 is due to the drawdown of the force and its replacement by Typhoon.

[2] Sentinel R1 did not enter service with the RAF until 2007.

The number of cannibalisations in each of the last 12 months broken down by aircraft is provided in the following table.

	2008							*2009*				
	Jun	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*
Harrier (all types)	82	71	58	102	89	75	61	91	45	88	55	78
Tornado GR4	172	188	132	140	158	198	160	178	163	194	104	119
Tornado F3	27	13	10	11	9	10	7	5	5	7	10	0
Typhoon	44	61	47	59	61	36	53	36	55	80	55	22
Nimrod MR2	16	7	17	14	8	8	8	5	18	14	2	6
Nimrod R1	0	2	3	1	0	4	2	10	9	7	2	3
Sea King	10	21	14	17	12	15	12	9	13	13	16	12
Tristar	5	6	16	3	4	0	7	3	5	6	9	1
VC10	14	6	6	10	19	13	10	3	4	14	7	3
Hercules C130K	35	16	13	25	21	15	11	12	15	9	8	11
Hercules C130J	66	48	33	57	55	37	33	42	15	24	34	17
Sentinel R1[1]	—	—	—	—	2	2	12	10	7	2	4	8
Sentry	4	9	3	5	7	1	3	5	3	2	13	6
BAe 125	2	13	4	2	4	2	0	4	7	10	1	2
BAe 146	0	1	1	0	0	5	3	5	1	0	4	0
C17	3	7	5	4	3	5	4	1	3	5	3	4
Dominie	17	11	5	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Hawk	13	14	5	7	13	14	11	13	22	37	13	26
Tucano	1	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	2
Vigilant	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0
Viking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1. Sentinel R1 figures for June to September 2008 are not available

Army: Clothing

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the merits of replacing bearskin caps worn by the Guards Regiments with caps made from synthetic material. [282942]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to the use of faux fur products in military ceremonial clothing wherever a suitable alternative can be found to real fur. Examples of this include the Busby cap worn by the members of the Royal Horse Artillery and the Shako hat worn by the Rifles Regiments.

Officials met with representatives of several potential suppliers at an Industry Day on 23 October 2008 to investigate whether the market could deliver an alternative solution to meet the Guards' requirements. Our conclusion is that industry is not currently able to produce a synthetic material with the properties required for the ceremonial cap, whose iconic design is closely associated with this nation's traditions and is recognised around the world.

However, we remain open to testing material that industry might offer us as a potential synthetic alternative.

Defence: Inflation Index

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in establishing a defence-specific inflation index. [283300]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The programme of work is on course and in April 2010, as notified to the HCDC over scrutiny of the 2006-07 annual report and accounts, the MOD will publish estimates of defence inflation for financial years 2006-07 through to 2008-09. For financial year 2009-10 a provisional estimate of defence inflation will be produced in September 2010.

Departmental Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department will reach the age of 65 years in the year 2011. [283367]

Bill Rammell: 1,157 MOD civilian employees will reach age 65 by the beginning of the year 2011.

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the implications for UK defence policy of the recent statement by Russian Prime

Minister, Vladimir Putin, on the disarmament of nuclear weapons; and if he will make a statement. [282010]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We believe in the vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. We are committed to working towards multilateral nuclear disarmament, and are encouraged that Russia also shares this commitment. We also welcome the fact that Russia and the US are currently engaged in negotiations over a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. As the Prime Minister announced on 17 March, we will soon be publishing further UK proposals in a "Roadmap to 2010".

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what progress his Department has made on preparation of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland in the last six months; [282174]

(2) when the consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland will be launched. [282175]

Mr. Woodward: The Government have been considering the proposals put forward by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for a package of new statutory rights and duties on public authorities. It is taking time to consider fully all these detailed proposals. The Government aim to publish a consultation paper after the parliamentary summer recess.

Departmental Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1457-61W, on departmental training, what service was provided by Oasis training. [279283]

Mr. Woodward: Oasis is the Northern Ireland Office in-house IT network infrastructure, providing a platform for e-mail and general administration tools.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [283162]

Paul Goggins: None.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on the redaction of material relating to hon. Members' allowances prior to publication; who undertook the redaction process; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines provided for the conduct of the redaction work. [282239]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* The scanning and redaction of material relating to hon. Members' allowances was undertaken by staff employed by The Stationery Office, the contractor employed for this project. Final figures are not yet available but, to the end of March 2009, the cost of redaction has been £451,966.

The redaction was undertaken in two phases—copies of the redaction guidelines for each phase will be placed in the Library.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Duties: Working Hours

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Leader of the House how many hours she spent on her ministerial duties in the week commencing 21 June 2009. [283543]

Ms Harman: I was on ministerial duty at all times.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Leader of the House how many hours between 4 May 2009 and 5 June 2009 each Minister in her Office who is also a Member of the House worked. [282778]

Ms Harman: Ministers spend as much time as necessary to fulfil their ministerial duties.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Climate Change: Buildings

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Display Energy Certificate and *(b)* advisory report for the offices of the Committee on Climate Change at Manning House, Carlisle Place. [283257]

Mr. Kidney: The CCC leases the fourth floor of Manning House and does not have control over the management of the building. The building managers have not as yet applied for a display energy certificate or advisory report to be undertaken, although the CCC has requested that this is done. We are therefore unable to place a copy of these in the Library. The CCC has installed carbon footprint trackers and is monitoring energy usage for its floor of the building. It has also applied to have an energy performance certificate produced for its offices. The CCC's corporate carbon management policy will be published in its annual report and accounts for 2008-09 which will be laid before both Houses' Libraries by 22 July 2009.

Fuel Poverty

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the Fuel Poverty Summit convened by Ofgem in April 2008. [283244]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not hold a copy of the agenda and minutes of the summit.

Information about the summit can be found on Ofgem's website. This includes introductory remarks from Lord Mogg, Ofgem's chairman, at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Publications/Documentsl/Action%20Programme%20for%20Energy%20Summit.pdf

the Fuel Poverty Action Plan which was agreed at the summit at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Publications/Documents1/Fuel%20Poverty%20Summit%20Action%20Programme.pdf

and the relevant press release at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/media/pressrel/Documentsl/FP%20Summit%20Action%20Planthrid%20final.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beaches: Barmston

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons water samples have not been taken from the sea at Barmston in East Yorkshire in 2009; what recent representations he has received on sampling sea waters and Barmston's ability to obtain Bathing Beach Standard; and if he will make a statement. [282748]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency, with the agreement of DEFRA, decided to stop sampling water quality at Barmston at the start of 2008. This decision was taken due to increased coastal erosion which placed staff under unacceptable health and safety risks when accessing the necessary sampling point.

Barmston is an identified bathing water under the Bathing Water Directives (76/160/EEC and 2006/7/EC). An alternative site for the sampling point is being considered.

The Secretary of State has not received any representations regarding sampling bathing water quality at Barmston and will not be making a statement.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280561]

Dan Norris: The permanent secretary is responsible for DEFRA's energy efficiency.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281944]

Dan Norris: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS supply chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by DEFRA has gone up from 79.5 per cent. in 2006-07 to 85 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Forests

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area and proportion of land in each forest district managed by Forestry Commission England has potential for lowland heathland re-creation *(a)* has been replanted with conifers since 2005 and *(b)* is scheduled for conifer re-planting. [282479]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The potential area of lowland heath based on recent Forestry Commission surveys in each forest district and the area that has been replanted since 2005 is given in the following table. The area scheduled for replanting following clear felling is given based on the existing management plans to 2020. These plans are subject to revision in the light of new policy developments and any operational considerations such as wind damage, disease etc.

	Potential lowland heathland	*Potential lowland heathland replanted since 2005*		*Potential lowland heathland scheduled for conifer replanting up to 2020*	
Forest district	*Area (ha)*	*Area (ha)*	*Percentage of potential*	*Area (ha)*	*Percentage of potential*
Kielder FD	108	0	0.0	0	0
North West England FD	0	0	0.0	0	0
North York Moors FD	225	6	0.0	20	9
Sherwood and Lincolnshire FD	4,733	108	0.8	527	11
West Midlands FD	1,527	46	0.4	298	20
Northamptonshire FD	32	0	0.0	0	0
East Anglia FD	18,595	662	2.6	3,436	18

	Potential lowland heathland	*Potential lowland heathland replanted since 2005*		*Potential lowland heathland scheduled for conifer replanting up to 2020*	
Forest district	*Area (ha)*	*Area (ha)*	*Percentage of potential*	*Area (ha)*	*Percentage of potential*
Peninsular FD	0	0	0.0	0	0
Forest of Dean FD[2]	367	4	0.0	58	16
New Forest FD[1] (Dorset)	2,711	68	0.2	1,103	41
South East England FD	1,135	23	0.1	279	25
Total	29,433	917	0.4	5,721	19

[1] The New Forest forest district includes land managed by the Forestry Commission in Dorset. The table does not include the SSSI/SPA/SAC designated land managed by the Forestry Commission in the New Forest national park.

[2] The figures for the Forest of Dean forest district include land in Gloucestershire and the surrounding counties managed by the Forestry Commission. It does not include the area of the Forest of Dean's statutory inclosures.

Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from voluntary and community groups on charges for surface water drainage. [283013]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 1 April 2009, DEFRA has received about 40 letters and one e-petition on the No. 10 website from voluntary and community groups on charges for surface water drainage.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising at each airport in the most recent period for which figures are available. [283255]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published in January 2009 its assessment of the carbon dioxide emissions from each of the 31 UK airports included in the Department's UK air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasting framework. These airports accounted for 94 per cent. of total UK air traffic movements in 2005.

This assessment is reported for the year 2005 and can be found in Annex G, Table G10 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts":

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Aviation: Fares

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that air fares advertised by low-cost airlines accurately reflect the cost to the consumer. [283156]

Paul Clark: Regulation EC 1008/2008, which came into force last November, requires airlines to include in the advertised fare all applicable taxes, charges, surcharges and fees which are unavoidable and foreseeable at the time of publication. It also requires the existence of any optional price supplements to be clearly communicated at the start of the booking process. Department for Transport officials are working with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to establish an enforcement regime for the Regulation, which will include appropriate penalties for non-compliance.

The OFT has also taken successful action on all-inclusive pricing by airlines under existing consumer protection legislation.

Multi-Purpose Test Centres

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many multi-purpose test centres were *(a)* planned to be open and *(b)* open at the time of the introduction of the new motorcycle practical test. [282909]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency originally intended that a new single-event practical motorcycle test should be delivered from 66 multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs).

It was subsequently decided to split the new test into two modules with module 1 being the specific manoeuvres conducted off-road to ensure safety and module 2 the on-road riding test. This has allowed us to provide 88 per cent. of candidates access to one of the 66 centres offering module 1 testing within our target of 45 minutes or 20 miles, and 97 per cent. can reach one of the 105 centres offering the module 2 test at the same access standard.

When the new test was introduced on 27 April 2009, candidates were able to take their module 1 test at 66 facilities—44 MPTCs, six casual-hire sites, 16 part-time Vehicle Operator and Services Agency sites, and module 2 tests at 105 facilities—43 MPTCs, one casual-hire site; and 61 other suitable Driving Test Centres.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* collisions and *(b)* collisions causing injuries occurred during motorcycle driving tests in the calendar year up to 28 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [283301]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency report information on collisions during motorcycle driving tests in the calendar year up to 28 April 2009 as follows:

Period: 29 April 2008 to 28 April 2009

	Number
Collisions not involving injury	39
Collisions involving injury	42

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the population lives within 20 miles or 45 minutes travel of a multi-purpose test centre. [282910]

Paul Clark: The original plans for 66 centres would have enabled 83 per cent. of the population to reach a practical motorcycling testing facility within 45 minutes travelling or 20 miles.

Our decision to split the test into two modules enabled us to increase the number of service delivery points. When the new test was implemented on 27 April 2009, 88 per cent. could access a module 1 testing facility for the off-road element within the travel/distance criteria—97 per cent. for module 2. The 5 per cent. difference between planned and actual coverage for the off-road element is accounted for by the actual, rather than the previously planned location of the new off road testing facilities.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many planning applications for multi-purpose test centres were refused by local planning committees. [282911]

Paul Clark: In total nine planning applications were refused and three were made and withdrawn following discussions with the local planning authorities.

There were numerous other informal discussions with local planning authorities about possible sites where the case did not progress to formal planning application.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost to date of developing and constructing multi-purpose test centres and *(b)* the cost of completing the remaining centres. [282912]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has spent, up to the end of the 2008-09 financial year, a total of £51 million of capital funds (£49.29 million on new DSA permanent centres; £1.12 million on shared with Vehicle and Operator Services Agency sites and £600,000 on casual hire sites).

The forecast final capital spend is £71 million which is in line with the agreed programme business case and budget.

Public Transport: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated for the purposes of improving public transport in *(a)* Test Valley Borough and *(b)* Southampton in the last 12 months. [283319]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, such as the provision of public transport. Spending in Test Valley is a matter for Hampshire county council as local transport authority. The table shows funding support for Hampshire and Southampton in 2008-09:

2008-09	*£ million*
Hampshire	30.601
Southampton	4.158

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10 special grant funding is being provided by the Department for Transport to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concessionary bus travel. The allocations made to Test Valley and Southampton for 2008-09 is shown in the table:

Concessionary fares funding 2008-09

	£ million
Southampton	1.059
Test Valley	0.225

Railways: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operations of each rail franchise in the most recent period for which figures are available. [283256]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold data in the form requested. The rail industry reports its traction related carbon emissions annually to the Office of Rail Regulation.

In 2007-08, the most recent year for which figures are available, the rail industry reported combined freight and passenger traction carbon emissions of 3.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Of this 2.7 million tonnes relates to passenger operations. This information is found in Rolling National Rail Trends 2008-09 on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in levels of bank lending in the last six months. [282882]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In November 2008, the Chancellor set up a lending panel to monitor lending to the UK economy, and to promote best practice across the industry in dealing with borrowers facing financial difficulties. The Bank of England collects data covering aspects of lending to the UK corporate and household sectors on behalf of the lending panel and publishes a monthly trends in lending report. These reports provide an assessment of the latest developments in lending to the UK economy. The first report was published in April and the most recent report is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

Financial Services: Crime

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on infiltration of financial services firms by criminal groups; [283374]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to prevent organised criminal groups from infiltrating financial services firms; and if he will make a statement. [283375]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ministers and officials meet the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has a statutory objective under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to reduce the extent to which it is possible for an authorised firm to be used for a purpose connected with financial crime. As part of that remit, the FSA has drawn attention to the financial crime risks posed by inadequate systems and controls for the recruitment of staff.

All directors of financial services firms are required to satisfy the FSA that they are "fit and proper persons" when they apply for authorisation, and on an ongoing basis. The suitability of each individual person who performs a controlled function will be assessed by the FSA under the approved persons regime. In certain circumstances, the FSA may consider that the firm is not suitable because of doubts over the individual or collective suitability of persons connected with the firm.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) also operate a fit and proper test for key individuals involved in the management and ownership of money service businesses and trust and company service businesses that must be registered with them for supervision under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. If any key individual within the business is not found to be fit and proper, HMRC will not register the business and the business must not operate.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 4 December 2008 from the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire (PO reference: 1/64303/2008). [277309]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 3 April 2009 from the hon. and learned Member for Harborough to the right hon. Member for Dudley South about Dr. R. and Mrs. W. Sindall of Oadby, Leicestershire. [280254]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average waiting time for a caller to each of HM Revenue and Customs 0845 telephone numbers was in each of the last 12 months; how much the average call to such an 0845 number cost the caller in each of those months; and how many callers received a recorded message telling them to call back later after having been put on hold in each of those months. [280653]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* HMRC has in excess of 200 different 0845 numbers and cannot therefore provide waiting times for each of these numbers. The majority of calls to HMRC are centrally managed through contact centres and the performance data for these calls are aggregated by each tax/head of duty. In the last 12 months, customers calling the main lines of business waited, on average, the following minutes and seconds before their call was answered by an adviser.

	2008							2009				
Average waiting time	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*
Child Benefit	03:24	03:34	03:44	04:51	04:15	03:33	02:16	01:53	00:09	00:07	00:28	01:21
National Insurance	01:20	02:06	02:04	00:34	00:50	00:31	00:16	01:12	00:36	00:45	00:55	01:13
Online Services Helpdesk	00:09	00:11	00:10	00:28	01:30	00:30	00:09	02:54	01:25	02:09	02:44	01:37
Stamp Taxes	00:20	00:33	00:17	00:06	00:11	00:10	00:11	00:04	00:04	00:05	00:17	00:20
Tax Credits	04:12	04:36	01:18	01:48	00:38	00:18	00:15	01:37	00:25	00:16	00:59	01:33
Taxes (PAYE)	02:42	04:06	02:12	01:47	00:38	00:26	00:36	03:14	01:35	01:49	01:48	03:12
Taxes Helplines	00:35	01:17	00:34	00:25	00:13	00:10	00:13	01:36	00:22	00:22	01:33	02:57
VAT	00:18	00:23	00:37	00:18	00:14	00:25	00:17	00:14	00:19	00:33	00:58	01:13

Call charges to customers are dependent on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

Callers to HMRC either enter the queuing system or, if the queue is full, are played a busy message. The vast majority of callers enter the queue through an initial interactive voice recognition (IVR) service. Some IVR options will advise customers to call back later if HMRC expects to be particularly busy, for example during a peak period. It is not possible to identify the number of callers who receive this specific type of recorded message.

Welfare Tax Credit: Repayments

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been required to make repayments as a result of overpayments of their tax credits in Milton Keynes in the last 12 months. [283682]

Mr. Timms: The latest estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes are given in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics—

Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments Geographical Analyses", for 2006-07. This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level. The geographical finalised awards publications have been delayed following a problem identified with the delivery of geographical information, although this does not affect the UK level statistics which were published on 19 May 2009. More information can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

JUSTICE

Crimes against Property: Fines

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were fined for offences relating to damage to or destruction of property in each year since 2003. [282977]

Claire Ward: The number of persons issued with a fine at all courts for offences of criminal damage in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 1.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Under the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme, the police can issue a fixed penalty notice of £80 for the offence of destroying or damaging property (Section 1 (1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971) where the value of damage caused is under £500. The number of PNDs issued in England and Wales for the years 2004-07 (latest available) can be viewed in table 2: the offence was added to the Scheme in November 2004.

The PND scheme was made available to all 43 forces in England and Wales from April 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons issued with a fine at all courts for offences relating to 'damaging or destroying property' in England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec. 1(2) and (3).	Arson endangering life	1	—	—	—	—
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec.1(1) and 3	Arson not endangering life	36	25	22	22	21
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec. 1(2). Explosive Substances Act 1883 Sec 2, Sec 3(l)(a). Malicious Damage Act 1861 Secs 35, 36, 47	Other criminal damage endangering life excluding arson	6	17	18	4	8
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec 1(1) as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.30 (1) and (2)	Racially aggravated other criminal damage	21	22	21	18	17
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec. 1(1) as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec30(l) and (2).	Religiously aggravated other criminal damage	—	2	—	—	3
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec. 1(1) as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec30(l) and (2)	Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (any amount)	3	7	4	2	3
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec. 1(1). Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 S.22 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less	7,370	7,129	6,519	5,655	5,634

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders aged 16 and over for the offence 'Criminal Damage (under £500)' in [illegible] and Wales, 2004 to 2007[1,2]

Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Criminal Damage (under £500)	1,190	12,168	20,620	19,946

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme commenced in 2004.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department of press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since his Department was established. [283074]

Mr. Wills: Since its inception on 9 May 2007, the Ministry incurred the following expenditure on press office staff other than press officers:

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	150,337
2007-08	76,167

Press Office staff other than press officers are interpreted as being secretarial and administrative staff. The increase in expenditure has occurred because it was recognised that, in the transition from the Department of Constitutional Affairs to the Ministry of Justice, the press office function needed to be enhanced to satisfactorily meet the demands placed upon it from all forms of media. As a major Department of state, the Ministry touches the lives of all citizens, and it is important that the public understands how taxpayers money is being used and the services that it provides. The Ministry's support and administrative staff working in the press office are an integral part of the team, helping with daily operations and the smooth running of the area.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies have submitted bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. [283033]

Mr. Wills: Agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) within the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have not submitted any bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. Efficiency savings were removed from budgets before funding was allocated to MoJ agencies and NDPBs. Individual budget managers are required to live within their funding allocation.

Harassment: Fines

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were fined for offences of using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year since 2003; [282975]

(2) how many people were fined for offences of intentionally harassing or scaring people in each year since 2003. [282976]

Claire Ward: The number of persons issued with a fine at all courts for the offences of using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress and intentionally harassing or scaring people in England and Wales for the years 2003-07 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Under the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme, the police can issue a fixed penalty notice of £80 for the offence of 'Using words, conduct likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress' (S5 of the POA 1986). The number of PNDs issued in England and Wales for the years 2004-07 (latest available) can be viewed in table 2. PNDs are not available for offences committed under section 4A.

The PND was made available to all 43 forces in England and Wales from April 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons issued with a fine at all courts for offences relating to 'Causing harassment, alarm and distress', in England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Fine*				
		2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31(1)(b),(4)	Racially Aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	97	94	91	87	134
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31(1)(b),(4)	Religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	0	4	0	2	1
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31(1)(b),(4)	Racially or religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	15	24	21	22	36
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5	Harassment, alarm or distress	9,932	10,296	9,972	10,235	10,832
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act Sec.31(1)(b),(5)	Racially Aggravated Harassment, alarm or distress	551	642	724	866	970
Public Order Act 1986 S.5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.31(1) (c) and 5	Religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	6	6	5	14	18

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders aged 16 and over for the offence 'Causing harassment, alarm and distress' in England and Wales, 2004-07[1, 2]

	Number
2004	28,790
2005	64,007
2006	82,235
2007	77,827

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The penalty notice for disorder scheme commenced in 2004.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Secondment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any people seconded from the Probation Service to *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* regional offender management services have been (i) offered permanent posts within the Director of Offender Management Structure (DOMS) and (ii) allocated to join a surplus employees' group; [283044]

(2) what his policy is on the secondment of Probation Service staff to the Prison Service; [283045]

(3) under what circumstances a prison establishment can opt out of arrangements to second Probation Service staff to prisons; [283046]

(4) what the average length of a Probation Service secondment to a prison was in the latest period for which figures are available; [283047]

(5) from which budget the salaries of Probation Service staff seconded to work in prisons in England and Wales are drawn; [283048]

(6) whether he plans to review the deployment of Probation Service staff to prisons in England and Wales. [283049]

Maria Eagle: Within the Ministry of Justice, prison and probation services in England and Wales have been brought together under the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), an executive agency. It is the agency's responsibility to ensure that the two services operate together to provide the most effective outcomes for offender management, to reduce crime and improve public protection. Each region now has its own Director of Offender Management (DOM), responsible for the operation of both services, and it has been an essential component of the restructuring arrangements that probation service staff continue to operate in prison establishments and to be seconded to NOMS headquarters (including to DOMS' offices).

In particular, throughout the regional restructuring, there has been a clear recognition of the benefits in bringing together skills, competencies and experience from all parts of the new agency. Probation staff were selected for the posts generated by the restructure through established secondment arrangements. It is not possible for probation staff to apply for permanent positions in the civil service other than through open competition where the post is advertised externally. Probation staff are employees of probation areas and secondment arrangements ensure that an appropriate level of integration takes place.

Probation staff work in prisons in the public and private sector under service level agreements (SLA) between the governor or director of each establishment and the chief officer of the local probation area. It is ultimately for the Director of Offender Management to commission the level of service that he or she considers to be appropriate within the region and to determine budget allocation. The budget for probation services provided within prisons is part of the prisons overall budget and the amount is designated by the governor of the prison.

Information on the average length of deployment for probation staff to prison establishments is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. In respect of NOMS HQ, the current requirement of the Civil Service Commission is for secondments to be limited to a maximum of two years. This is currently being reviewed as the future structures with NOMS are developed.

Offences against Children: Sentencing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for offences related to *(a)* child abuse, *(b)* child neglect and *(c)* sexual abuse of children in the latest period for which figures are available. [282978]

Claire Ward: The available data are shown in the following table. The data show the number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for child neglect and sexual abuse of children in the last year for which figures are available. The term "child abuse" has no specific recognised definition but includes a range of sexual and physical offences against children, such as it describes harm caused to a child arising from physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent, guardian, carer, or stranger. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including physical assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders but where the age of the victim is not known. This data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence it is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for child abuse including child neglect and sexual abuse of children, 2007

	Number of children
Sexual abuse of children[1]	1,199
Child neglect[2]	99
Child abuse[3]	1,298

[1] Includes the following offences:
Sexual assault of a male child aged under 13
Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 13 or under 16
Sexual assault of a female child aged under 13
Sexual activity with a male or female child aged under 13
Sexual activity with a male or female aged under 16
Familial sexual offences of a male or female child aged under 13
Abuse of children aged under 18 through prostitution and pornography
Abuse of trust sexual offences against a child aged under 18
Meeting a male or female aged under 16 following sexual grooming.

[2] Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person.
Cruelty or neglect of children.
Abandoning children under 2 years.

[3] The term child abuse has no specific definition, in this answer it refers to the offences included in sexual abuse of children and child neglect.

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Probation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the caseload of the Probation Service in London was in each of the last five years. [282568]

Mr. Straw: The total case load of offenders supervised by the probation service in London as at 31 December in each of the last four years (the latest figures available) is shown in the table.

	Number
2005	41,665
2006	41,338
2007	41,998
2008	43,811

The 2008 figures are provisional and were published on 30 April 2009 in the Ministry of Justice statistics bulletin "Probation statistics quarterly brief October to December 2008, England and Wales". Copies can be found in the Libraries of both Houses and may be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trained probation staff there were in the Probation Service in each of the last five years. [282809]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of trained probation staff in each of the last five years:

Full-time equivalents

	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006[1]	2007[1, 2]
Probation officers[3]	6,271.45	6,584.94	6,894.36	7,209.45	7,110.53
Trainee probation officers	1,818.20	1,774.20	1,386.70	1,134.09	1,138.00
Probation service officers[4]	5,386.00	5,623.90	6,235.20	6,502.71	6,221.77

[1] Figures taken as at 31 December each year.

[2] Figures for 2007 will shortly be published on the Probation Service Intranet and Internet sites.

[3] Includes: senior probation officers, senior practitioners, probation officers and practice development assessors.

[4] Includes: probation services officers and treatment managers.

Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* self-harm, *(b)* injury caused by restraint and *(c)* assault there were in each young offender institution in each of the last five years. [282913]

Maria Eagle: The annual numbers of recorded self-harm incidents for each of current, single-function young offender institution for each of the last five years is given in table 1.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07

Most self-harm is not directly life threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for all those concerned. A prisoner-focused care planning system for those at risk, (ACCT), has helped prisons manage self-harm. There are no easy answers to preventing self harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to manage it.

Table 1: Recorded self-harm in single-function young offender institutions, 2004-08

Incidents

Prison	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	239	172	224	142	106
Aylesbury	83	116	346	265	265
Brinsford	23	73	102	86	87
Castington	89	92	106	68	64
Cookham Wood	163	197	144	216	55
Deerbolt	59	104	131	99	138
Feltham	161	144	126	221	210
Glen Parva	217	232	149	249	231
Hindley	46	136	71	41	81
Huntercombe	73	69	67	86	95
Lancaster Farms	15	92	153	21	5
Northallerton	69	16	35	30	37
Portland	119	110	161	174	80
Reading	39	60	43	38	24
Rochester	58	18	50	47	90
Stoke Heath	259	192	217	227	325
Thorn Cross	3	1	3	4	3
Warren Hill	21	14	18	13	80
Werrington	13	30	24	12	52
Wetherby	60	67	34	12	34

The information requested on the number of injuries caused by use of restraints is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A Use of Force Report Form is completed by each member of staff involved in its use, to explain the circumstances in which force was used. Establishments are required to examine this information on a regular basis to determine if there any particular problems in relation to use of force or any resulting injuries. To obtain information on the number of injuries sustained during use of restraint would require contacting each young offender establishment and asking them to analyse their forms for every single use of force for the past five years.

The number of assault incidents for each current, single-function young offender institution for each of the last five years is given in table 2.

The information is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of an underlying trend for a particular prison. Additionally there have been improvements in reporting over the years, and this is reflected in the tables.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. Additionally in a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

Reducing violence in prisons is a priority for Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers Association and they are collectively committed to working towards a zero tolerance approach to prison violence. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to the public and contracted out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Table 2: Recorded assault incidents in single-function young offender institutions, 2004-08

					Assault incidents
Prison	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	393	600	761	713	348
Aylesbury	28	96	100	93	139
Brinsford	780	364	197	264	352
Castington	443	412	406	431	462
Cookham Wood	13	5	5	7	29
Deerbolt	234	190	174	194	222
Feltham	731	698	596	544	648
Glen Parva	273	300	387	422	500
Hindley	78	149	467	548	530
Huntercombe	96	110	217	386	436
Lancaster Farms	213	484	429	307	347
Northallerton	110	118	91	108	106
Portland	166	194	170	234	103
Reading	41	93	72	54	37
Rochester	120	102	113	80	173
Stoke Heath	290	498	579	600	561
Thorn Cross	8	21	148	65	40
Warren Hill	183	291	314	370	363
Werrington	123	160	168	154	226
Wetherby	492	568	465	393	432

Young Offender Institutions: Suicide

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year-olds in each young offenders institution committed suicide in each of the last five years. [282909]

Maria Eagle: Any death in prison custody is a tragic event. The Government, Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service, (NOMS) is committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody. NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of Prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07.

The National Offender Management Service holds two groups of offender within its young offender estate. These are young people (15 to 17-year-olds) and young adults (18 to 20-year-olds). Under-15s are not held in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs).

The following table details the numbers of self-inflicted deaths in YOIs in each of the last five years, by age as requested.

	Age	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Lancaster Farms	15	—	—	—	1	—
Lancaster Farms	16	—	1	—	—	—
Hindley	17	—	1	—	—	—
Aylesbury	18	—	-	—	—	1
Portland	18	1	—	—	—	—
Reading	18	—	3	—	1	—
Stoke Heath	18	—	1	—	—	—
Brinsford	19	—	1	—	1	—
Glen Parva	19	—	2	—	1	—
Reading	19	1	—	—	—	—
Rochester	19	1	—	—	—	—
Total	—	3	9	0	4	1

It is not possible to give the percentages that these deaths represent, for each age, in each establishment and for each year. Young people and young adults account for some 2.6 per cent. and 10.5 per cent. of all prisoners respectively. The 17 deaths detailed above constitute 0.2 per cent. of under-21s.

Under-18s are also held in secure training centres and secure children's homes. There have been two self-inflicted deaths in Secure Training Centres and Secure Children's Homes, both involving 14-year-old boys. One was the death of Adam Rickwood in Hassockfield STC in August 2004 and the other was the death of Wayne Cahn at Hillside Secure Children's Home in January 1998.

STCs and SCHs have stringent screening processes in place to assess young people's risk of suicide and self-harm (SASH) taking into account vulnerability, safeguarding and risk assessments. Young people are assessed upon admission and regularly thereafter by the relevant staff as part of their review process. Providers have robust systems to record young people's risk assessments and follow operational policies for managing those who are at risk of self-harm. Establishments regularly provide data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on all incidents of self-harm, and this information is regularly reviewed as part of the YJB's quality assurance monitoring arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children's Boards also play a key role in working together with establishments in helping address the safeguarding needs of all young people in secure settings.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year-olds who were convicted of non-violent crimes were given a community sentence in the last 12 months. [282917]

Claire Ward: The available information is found in the following table. Data for 2008 will not be available until "Sentencing Statistics 2008" is published later in the year.

Percentage of persons sentenced to community sentences for non-violent indictable offences[1], by age, 2007

Age	*Percentage given community sentences*
10	91.5
11	92.4
12	88.7
13	87.7
14	82.9
15	79.1
16	72.2
17	64.3
18	34.7
19	29.9

[1] This includes all indictable offences not included in the violence against the person offence type. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The table shows the percentage of persons aged 10 to 19 sentenced to a community sentence for non-violent indictable offences in 2007. The definition of non-violent offences are all those not included in the offences type, 'Violence Against the Person'. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons seeking asylum who entered the UK at Northern Ireland airports *(a)* presented themselves with no identification, *(b)* presented themselves as juveniles without identification and *(c)* presented themselves as juveniles without identification and subsequently absconded from the social services accommodation in which they were placed in each of the last three years. [261596]

Mr. Woolas: I have written to the hon. Member.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the cost of the e-Borders scheme; and if he will make a statement. [282986]

Mr. Woolas: The gross cost of the e-Borders Programme to the Government is £1.2 billion, of which the cost of the 10 year contract is £750 million.

Cannabis

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids upon cannabis factories have been conducted by each police force in the last three years. [278933]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are collected centrally and at police force level on offences related to cannabis production, although no data are collected centrally which relate to the number of raids on cannabis factories. It is, therefore, not possible to provide a response to this question.

However, in 2007-08, in recognition of inconsistencies in definitions of the term 'cannabis factory' across police forces, a single definition was agreed and a baseline set for the number of operations against such enterprises. The agreed definition was any premises, whether commercial or residential, where the premises, or part therein, has been adapted to such an extent that normal usage would be inhibited and usually present within the premises, or part therein, are items solely concerned for the production of cannabis, i.e.

Hydroponics system
High intensity lighting
Ventilation/extractor fans
Any other affiliated equipment, and/or
Electricity meter bypassed (abstraction of electricity).

The total number of premises meeting this definition recorded in 2007-08 was 3,033. Results by police force are set out in the table. More recent data are not yet available and, as 2007-08 was the baseline year, it is not possible to provide data at a national level for the last three years.

Cannabis factories recorded 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

	Number
Avon and Somerset	207
Bedfordshire	17
BTP	8
Cambridgeshire	112
Central Scotland	1
Cheshire	21
Cleveland	43
Cumbria	11
Derbyshire	53
Devon and Cornwall	19
Dorset	28

Cannabis factories recorded 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

	Number
Dumfries and Galloway	0
Durham	7
Dyfed-Powys	41
Essex	68
Fife	1
Gloucestershire	4
GMP	227
Grampian	9
Gwent	42
Hampshire	37
Hertfordshire	70
Humberside	18
Kent	73
Lancashire	123
Leicestershire	75
Lincolnshire	49
Lothian and Borders	4
Merseyside	118
Met	289
Norfolk	44
North Wales	31
North Yorkshire	11
Northamptonshire	27
Northern Constabulary	0
Northumbria	38
Nottinghamshire	55
PSNI	4
South Wales	73
South Yorkshire	54
Staffordshire	51
Strathclyde	30
Suffolk	22
Surrey	12
Sussex	37
Tayside	7
Thames Valley	110
Warwickshire	48
West Mercia	18
West Midlands	203
West Yorkshire	368
Wiltshire	14

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests for alcohol-related offences there were in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent in the last eight quarters. [283002]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for alcohol related offences in Kent Police Force Area, 2006-07 (latest available), broken down by quarter, can be viewed in the table. Information held centrally on the Court Proceedings Database from which the data has been derived does not include information on constituencies; therefore data for Ashford constituency are not available.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection. Additionally, data on arrests for the offence of 'Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs' cannot be separately identified from the arrests for 'violence against the person' reported to the Home Office.

Number of offenders cautioned for alcohol related offences[1] Kent Police Force Area, 2006-07, broken down by quarter[2, 3, 4]

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
2006	20	37	28	31	116
2007	36	23	37	28	124

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12,17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162,163,164(1)(2), 165,166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170,171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175,176, 177,178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184,185,186,187(3)(4), 188,193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41,46,49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96,108,109,123,127,128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140,141, 142, 143,144, 145, 146, 147,147A, 148,149(1)(3)(4)(7)(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151,152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160,161,165,168, 179,197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11, 27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2. 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s. 17,18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Crime: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of burglary, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* vehicle crimes were reported in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire and (iii) Peterborough in each of the last five years. [281198]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the table. Recorded crime data are not specifically available at constituency level.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Selected offences recorded by the police in the Cambridgeshire police force area and Peterborough unitary authority

Number of offences

Area and year	*Burglary*[1]	*Violence against the person*	*Vehicle crime*[2]
Cambridgeshire			
2003-04	10,257	13,663	12,034
2004-05	8,501	13,358	10,219
2005-06	8,217	10,158	9,255
2006-07	8,821	10,421	9,715
2007-08	7,533	10,296	9,126
Peterborough			
2003-04	3,656	5,133	5,180
2004-05	2,973	5,165	4,658
2005-06	2,861	4,156	4,182
2006-07	3,046	4,017	4,372
2007-08	2,420	3,847	3,645

[1] Includes burglary in a dwelling and other burglary.

[2] Includes theft of or from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Cycling

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to implement the bicycle purchase initiative in his Department's agencies' offices in Merseyside. [282557]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is planning to introduce—during the current financial year—the 'Cycle2Work' tax efficient bicycle loan scheme across its estates.

Under the scheme rules the Home Office and its agencies cannot state from the outset that the cycles will be made available for purchase at the end of the 12 month hire period.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259805]

Mr. Woolas: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self-assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259853]

Mr. Woolas: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Home Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions is available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280535]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is committed to the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets which include a reduction in absolute carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency per m^2 and action to apply the Building Research Establishments Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) to all of its own new build and major refurbishment projects.

Data on energy efficiency expenditure are not currently recorded separately, as implementation of these measures is generally carried out as part of wider design or refurbishment programmes. Overall progress against the SOGE targets is assesed by the Sustainable Development Commission for inclusion in their annual SDiG publication.

Recent examples of expenditure on energy efficiency include the installation of energy efficient lamps, and the upgrading of thermostatic controls to improve efficiency in certain buildings on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) estate in Croydon. Furthermore our newest office building, Vulcan House, a UKBA property, has a range of measures integrated into the design and construction to optimise energy efficiency including setting the orientation to mitigate the effects of solar gain, building fabric insulation and a thermally efficient envelope including a vegetation roof that acts as a thermal barrier in both winter and summer.

The Department has recently signed up to the Carbon Trust Management Programme which will assist us in identifying low and no-cost measures as well as further investment opportunities to improve efficiency on our estate. This programme is supported by a staff awareness campaign. We shall also be monitoring the effectiveness of the programme.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280555]

Mr. Woolas: The permanent secretary, David Normington, has overall responsibility for the Department's sustainable development policy, including energy efficiency. Each year the Home Secretary signs off the Department's energy data for return to the Buildings Research Establishment.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281941]

Mr. Woolas: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Home Office has gone up from 68 per cent. in 2006-07 to 70 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278820]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has invested significantly in its people, with the creation of a professional Shared Service Centre and Procurement Centre of Excellence complemented by the creation of new processes and easy to use payment system.

A firm focus has been applied by the Procurement Centre of Excellence in the area of prompt payment. This focus has resulted in the Department exceeding the 90 per cent. target on three occasions in the fiscal year 2008-09 and able to meet the Prime Minister's target of paying all small, medium enterprises within 10 days, announced in October 2008.

The Department has been working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) reporting on both our legislative obligations of 30 days as well as the 10 day PM's commitment for SMEs for correctly presented compliant invoices.

The Department's (Home Office HQ and UKBA) performance of paying compliant invoices since the PM's announcement within 10 days is shown in the following table. The information shown for the Criminal Records Bureau and Identity and Passport Service are for all invoices received and paid as separate figures for SMEs are not retained:

			All invoices			
	HO Headquarters and UKBA		*CRB*		*IPS*	
Month	*SMEs, compliant invoices paid within 10 days*	*SMEs, percentage of invoices paid within 10 days*	*Number paid within 10 days*	*Percentage paid within 10 days*	*Number paid within 10 days*	*Percentage paid within 10 days*
January 2009	856	100	50	45	1,119	39
February 2009	1,001	100	79	41	1,111	37
March 2009	1,081	99.99	61	26	1,913	51

Until October 2008 the Home Department and its Executive Agencies were required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30 day payment target.

The first full month of formal recording against the 10 day target was November 2008 and therefore information about payment performance within 10 days is not available prior to this date.

DNA: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many young people aged under 16 years have their details recorded on the ONSET database; and how many such details have been added in the last 12 months; [283051]

(2) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have access to the information contained in his Department's ONSET database; [283052]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the ONSET database in predicting levels of future criminal activity; [283053]

(4) what rights of access an individual has to their personal information held on the ONSET database; [283054]

(5) how many people have had personal information held on his Department's ONSET database removed in each year since its inception; [283055]

(6) for how long personal information held on his Department's ONSET database is retained; and what criteria apply for its earlier deletion from the database; [283056]

(7) what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost of the operation of his Department's ONSET database; and how much has been spent on the ONSET database since the commencement of the project. [283057]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

ONSET is a set of assessment and referral tools designed by the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford, for use by local authorities' youth offending teams to support their work to prevent crime. ONSET identifies whether a child or young person would benefit from an early intervention in order to help prevent antisocial behaviour and offending.

ONSET also helps to ensure the effectiveness of the intervention by determining the risk factors that should be reduced and the protective factors that should be enhanced in any given case based on the individual's assessment. In 2008-09, youth offending teams reported to the Youth Justice Board that 15,752 children and young people had an ONSET assessment.

The profiles generated by ONSET are stored on the electronic and paper record systems used by local authorities. These systems can be accessed only by the multi-agency staff working for youth offending teams, such as health workers, police officers, social workers, probation officers and housing officers. Access to and sharing of such information is subject to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. The Youth Justice Board has issued guidance to youth offending teams on compliance with the Act and on effective record keeping and information sharing practice. Children, young people and their parents can have access to the information on request. The guidance also advises on the periods for which certain data should be retained. The length of time ONSET data might be retained will depend on local authorities' own data retention policies and on issues such as whether the young person goes on to offend, the nature of the offence and the disposal applied.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applicants from *(a)* India, *(b)* Sri Lanka and *(c)* Zimbabwe have had their applications refused in each of the last three years; of those how many have appealed; how many such appeals have succeeded; how many decisions have been withdrawn prior to determination of the appeal; and if he will make a statement. [253862]

Mr. Woolas: The number of UK visa applications refused in India and Sri Lanka in each of the calendar years 2006-08 is shown in the following table, together with the number of appeals received and appeals allowed. The same information is shown in the table for Zimbabwe, but this is based on applications made globally by Zimbabwe nationals rather than just those lodged in Zimbabwe as those data are not available.

We are unable to readily separate applications where a decision has been revoked following receipt of an appeal from those where a decision has been revoked following an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal determination. This information could be provided only by checking individual applications and therefore at disproportionate cost.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
India			
Visas refused	77,291	81,234	78,458
Appeals received	22,164	26,421	33,511
Appeals allowed	11,696	13,181	12,740
Sri Lanka			
Visas refused	8,434	8,231	7,875
Appeals received	1,467	954	1,046
Appeals allowed	1,184	671	547
Zimbabwe			
Visas refused	7,660	6,463	6,433
Appeals received	2,463	2,697	2,577
Appeals allowed	741	1,186	1,110

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will include medical qualifications in the criteria for awarding a Tier 1 visa. [280857]

Mr. Woolas: On 23 February the Home Secretary asked the Migration Advisory Committee what further changes to the criteria for Tier 1 there should be in 2010-11, given the changing economic circumstances. The Committee are due to report back to the Government in October. There are no plans to amend the Tier 1 points criteria before that time.

However, this is not to say that overseas doctors are unable to work in the UK. It is open for them to do so through Tier 2. Where they are a postgraduate doctor who has studied in the UK the UK Border Agency will, exceptionally, allow the NHS and others to recruit graduates of UK medical schools from overseas under Tier 2 of the points based system without first testing the resident labour market. This concession, which we will apply to the current round of recruitment, will allow these doctors open access to jobs in the UK's health sector, allowing them to continue their careers here.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the UK Border Agency's Tier 1 (General) Category Visa Programme have been *(a)* denied and *(b)* subsequently upheld at appeal since the introduction of new rules on 29 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [282217]

Mr. Woolas: As of 31 May 2009, 7,279 overseas visa applications under Tier 1 (general) of the points based system had been refused. There is no right of appeal on immigration grounds against decisions to refuse visa applications under the points based system, including Tier 1.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took for an overseas student to extend a visa in the last 12 months. [281390]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* During the last 12 months the average time taken to decide an application for extension of leave for an overseas student was 44 days.

Immigration

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 667W, on immigration, if he will take steps to expedite his decision in the case with his Department's reference G1082747; and if he will make a statement. [282802]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 27 April 2009 with the latest position on the case of G1082747 and this remains the position.

Immigration: Bicester

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the proposed immigration removal centre in Bicester; and if he will make a statement. [283226]

Mr. Woolas: The leader of Cherwell district council wrote to the chief executive of the UK Border Agency on 18 May to highlight his council's hope that we would proceed with the site at Bullingdon as a first preference. The chief executive replied on 28 May explaining that as we had secured planning permission for a centre at both Bullingdon and Bedford, we are considering which site to develop first, and that a decision will be announced in the autumn.

Immigration: Zimbabwe

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Zimbabwean nationals *(a)* resident and *(b)* who have applied for residency in England in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [282924]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality from the Annual Population Survey which covers residents of the UK. For the 12 month period from October 2007 to September 2008, I understand that it is estimated that the number of people with Zimbabwean nationality resident in England was 63,000. The margin of error around this estimate is +/-11,000. These are the latest estimates available.

Information relating to the number of Zimbabwean nationals who have applied for residency in England in the last 12 months is not held centrally by UKBA.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were recruited by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [281967]

Alan Johnson: The total number of permanent staff recruited by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each of the last three financial years was:

	Number
(a) 2006-07	144
(b) 2007-08	107
(c) 2008-09	107

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each of the last five years. [280323]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency was established on 1 April 2006. Only staff at grades equivalent to the senior civil service are contractually entitled to be considered for bonus payments. The payments made relate to performance during the previous financial year and the total figures for all such payments were:

			£
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Board Members	10,000	2,000	20,000
Deputy Directors	0	35,000	158,358

Wildlife: Crime

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for offences related to wildlife crime there were in each of the last 10 years. [280362]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1998 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
1998	70
1999	70
2000	64
2001	96
2002	64
2003	63
2004	96
2005	66
2006	130
2007	56

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes:
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Deer Act 1991
Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997
Conservation of Seals Act 1970

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the government of Burma on the military offensive against the Karen ethnic group; and if he will make a statement; [282491]

(2) what discussions he has had at the United Nations on the Burmese offensive against the Karen ethnic group. [282492]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are deeply concerned about the situation in Karen State and reports of renewed fighting between the Karen National Union and the Democratic Karen Buddhist army, who are supported by the Burmese army. Attacks carried out by the Burmese army and their Karen client organisations on civilians in Karen State have been particularly intense over the past two years. We hope to highlight our concerns in a UN Security Council discussion on the protection of civilians in armed conflict on 26 June 2009.

We have repeatedly called for a halt to such offensives and have urged both the military regime and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to find a peaceful settlement that will bring about a permanent end to the conflict. Most recently at meetings between our ambassador and Burmese Ministers on 18 and 19 June 2009. In response to the recent upsurge in violence and reports of large numbers of civilians fleeing over the Thai border, the Czech presidency of the EU, with our strong support, issued a statement on 11 June 2009 calling for an end to the hostilities. It expressed particular concern about the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict. We fully support this call and our embassy in Rangoon continues to monitor the situation closely.

Colombia

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are used in assessing the merits of negotiating trade agreements with Colombia; and what consideration is given to the application of EU policy on human rights in relation to such negotiations. [282624]

Chris Bryant: The key economic criteria for the EU's free-trade agreement partners should be market potential (economic size and growth) and the level of protection against EU export interests (tariffs and non-tariff barriers). This was set out in the 2006 Global Europe Paper. The UK is working within the EU to ensure that any free trade agreement with the Andean countries takes account of the EU stance on human rights in Colombia in this context.

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had at EU level on the conditions relating to the *(a)* labour rights and *(b)* human rights policies of the Colombian government to which negotiation of the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and Colombia is subject. [282625]

Chris Bryant: The UK remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Colombia. The UK is working within the EU to ensure that any free trade agreement with Colombia includes a link to a human rights clause as an essential element.

Delara Darabi

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Iran on the execution of Delara Darabi on 1 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [282497]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We were appalled to learn of the execution of Delara Darabi on 1 May 2009 for a crime she had allegedly committed at the age of 17. The EU, with strong UK support, issued a declaration on 2 May 2009 condemning her execution and urging the Iranian authorities to eliminate the death penalty for juveniles from its penal code.

In a press release issued on 7 May 2009 my predecessor, now the Minister for Armed Forces my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), echoed these sentiments and expressed our deep sorrow at the news.

My hon. Friend also summoned the Iranian ambassador to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to condemn Ms Darabi's execution and the continued practice of executing juvenile offenders. He expressed concern at Iran's continued disregard for international human rights law; and reminded Iran of their freely undertaken obligations.

Iran is signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which unequivocally prohibit the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by those under the age of 18.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 917W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282326]

Chris Bryant: No payments of interest for late payment of commercial debts were made by Foreign and Commonwealth Office non-departmental public bodies in the last three years.

Departmental Contracts

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which companies his Department, excluding its overseas posts, entered into contracts in the last financial year. [282659]

Chris Bryant: The following list gives the companies with which the contracts teams in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services have entered into new contracts during financial year 2008-09. It does not include contracts that were entered into prior to or after this period by these teams, or placed by others in the FCO in the UK during this period. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

Adhunik Vatanukool;
AES Electrical Systems;
Alchemist Partnership Limited;
ALCIS Ltd.;
Alfaplan Gradenje;
Ambrose HR Ltd.;
Asbestos Removals Logistics Ltd.;
ATG Access Ltd.;
Avail Consulting;
Balticare;
Bramble.cc Ltd.;
Bright Horizons Family solutions;
Building Services Group Ltd.;
Business Objects (UK) Limited;
Bymaro;
Cambridge Econometrics;
Capita Group PLC;
Certes Computing Ltd.;
Coffey International Development Ltd.;
Cogent Electrical Services Ltd.;
Computacenter;
Concerto Consulting;
Controlled Building Services Ltd.;
Coombs Consulting Ltd.;
Corporate Value Associates;
CP Recoveries;
Cranfield University;
Crown Agents;
Data Capture Solutions;
DGSI;
Disposal Services Authority;
Dytecna Limited;
Ebla Translations;
Elan;
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP;
Fugro Middle East;
G4S Security Services (UK) Limited;
Gardaworld;
Gilbert Ash Fit-Out;
Gleeds (QS);
Gleeds Building Surveying;
GMW Architects;
GP Supplies Limited;
GTZ;
Haig Consulting Ltd.;
Hanover Aviation Consultants Ltd.;
Hay Group Management Limited;
Heathrow Airport Limited;
Hoare Lea;
HOK International;
Intuity Consulting Ltd.;
Jedi Systems Consulting Ltd.;
Jordan + Bateman;
Kellogg Brown and Root Limited;
Knight Frank;
KPMG LLP;
LA International;
Mayfair Building Services;
MCI UK Ltd.;
Methods Consulting;
Minimal Risk Consultancy Ltd.;
Morson Human Resources Ltd.;
Morson International;
Mott MacDonald;
NSSL;
ODEC Ltd.;
Olive Group;
ORC International;
Orostream International Contracts Ltd.;
Ove Arup;
Oxford Policy Management Ltd.;
PA Consulting Group;
Parity;
Pemco Co. Ltd.;
Pepco Energy Services;
PMR Products Ltd.;
Projected Consulting Ltd.;

Purcon Ltd.;
QA Ltd.;
Ridge and Partners;
RN Golds Associates;
RPS Health Safety;
SMA Ltd.;
South Midlands Communication;
Spire Business Support Ltd.;
Thales UK Ltd.;
The Carbon Trust;
TMP (UK) Ltd.;
Toffco SDN BHD;
TPS Consult;
Tribal Consulting;
UCT Ltd.;
Venn Group Ltd.;
Veredus;
Windell Ltd.;
Zeal Interiors.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 435W, on departmental opinion polls, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Survey of partners across Government. [283234]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office survey of Partners Across Government 2009 has just been completed and the report is currently being finalised. Once the final report is available a copy will be placed in the Library.

Eritrea: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the human rights situation in Eritrea; and what steps he plans to take to have human rights included on the Article 8 Political Dialogue agenda for discussion between the EU and Eritrea. [282824]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador to Eritrea regularly discusses the human rights situation with her EU counterparts in Asmara. The chief reason for these discussions is to raise human rights issues with the Government of Eritrea as part of the Article 8 Political Dialogue.

In furtherance of the EU's desire to discuss human rights with the Government of Eritrea, the EU Heads of Mission produced a human rights report at the end of January. Since initial discussions earlier this year the Government of Eritrea has twice refused to have human rights included on the Article 8 Political Dialogue agenda for discussion. However, when the EU Heads of Mission last met with the Government of Eritrea on 23 June 2009, we were encouraged by the Government of Eritrea proposing human rights form part of the agenda at the next Article 8 Political Dialogue meeting, scheduled for September.

On 18 September 2008 the UK took part in the European Parliament Human Rights Committee discussion on how to address the growing human rights crisis in Eritrea. At this meeting various non-governmental organisations, including Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders, presented their human rights concerns to the Eritrean ambassador to Belgium and EU representatives.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown raised human rights with the Eritrean ambassador at the end of last year. In February 2009 Lord Malloch-Brown also took part in a debate in the House of Lords, which focused on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [282825]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to be concerned about reports of human rights abuses in Eritrea. A huge obstacle to making any factual assessment of the human rights situation in Eritrea is that the Eritrean police and security services are not willing to engage with our embassy on human rights abuses. This makes following up or corroborating reports of any abuses very difficult.

The UK raises human rights issues with the Eritrean Government both in Asmara and with the Eritrean ambassador to London on a regular basis, highlighting the amount of public and parliamentary interest we receive. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown raised human rights with the Eritrean ambassador at the end of last year.

We also discuss human rights as part of the EU via the Article 8 Political Dialogue. EU Heads of Mission produced a human rights report at the end of January to discuss with the Government of Eritrea. Since initial discussions earlier this year the government of Eritrea has twice refused to have human rights included on the Article 8 Political Dialogue agenda for discussion. However, when the EU Heads of Mission last met with the Government of Eritrea on 23 June 2009, we were encouraged by the Government of Eritrea proposing human rights form part of the agenda at the next Article 8 Political Dialogue meeting, scheduled for September.

We will continue to seek to engage the government of Eritrea on human rights issues at both EU and bilateral levels.

G8: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the meetings of *(a)* G8 Heads of Government and *(b)* G8 Foreign Ministers in 2010 and 2011 are scheduled to take place. [282590]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2010 Canada will host the G8 summit for Heads of Government in Huntsville, on 25-27 June 2010. Dates for Canada's G8 Foreign Minister meeting have not yet been publicly announced.

France holds the G8 presidency in 2011, but has not yet announced the dates for a Heads of Government summit or Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Iran: Demonstrations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise in the UN Council of Human Rights the handling by the authorities in Iran of the public demonstrations on the outcome of the recent presidential election. [282459]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* The UK regularly raises concerns about human rights in Iran, most recently at the 11th session of the UN Council of Human Rights which took place from 2-18 June 2009.

The UK has strongly supported statements by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a joint statement under five UN Special Procedures. These statements voiced grave concern about the use of excessive police force, arbitrary arrests and killings in the Islamic Republic of Iran and urged the Iranian Government to refrain from using excessive force and to fully guarantee freedom of expression and assembly throughout the country.

The next session of the Human Rights Council is scheduled to take place from 7-25 September 2009, and the UK will continue to monitor the situation in Iran closely and raise concerns as appropriate.

Iran: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the political situation in Iran. [282297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The political situation in Iran was discussed by EU Foreign Ministers, including my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, at the most recent European Union General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15-16 June 2009. The Council conclusions expressed strong concern about the violence and use of force against the protesters.

The June European Council released a declaration on 19 June 2009 which also expressed concern about the Iranian authorities' reaction to post-election demonstrations and called on the Iranian authorities to investigate allegations of irregularities in the elections.

We continue to keep in close touch with our European partners on the issue.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on the political situation in Iran. [282306]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang by telephone since the Iranian elections. They agreed that the international community should follow the situation in Iran closely.

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the safety of British nationals resident in Iran. [282696]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 22 June 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Travel Advice was revised to recommend against all but essential travel to Iran. Consequently we withdrew the dependents of our staff.

We do not believe that it is necessary to advise British citizens to leave Iran. However, we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

We are investigating reports of the arrest of British nationals in Iran and have called on the Iranian authorities to allow consular access.

Israel: Prisoners

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Israel on the welfare of Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli detention; and if he will make a statement. [282780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The administrative detention and treatment of Palestinian prisoners, especially Palestinian teenagers, in Israeli Prison Service facilities is a serious concern.

We have called on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that their rights, particularly the rights to a fair trial and family visitation, are upheld. We made our concerns clear during Israel's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the Human Rights Council in December 2008 and also in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2008 Human Rights Report. We will continue to raise this with Israeli officials.

North Korea: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time staff his Department employs at its embassy in North Korea. [283316]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are four British diplomatic staff at our embassy in Pyongyang. Six North Korean nationals also work there, under local arrangements by the host Government for the provision of interpreting and maintenance services.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the Road to 2010 Plan in respect of the non-proliferation treaty review conference; and if he will make a statement. [281902]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Work on the Road to 2010 Plan is progressing well and it remains our intention that it will be published this summer.

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will produce the Government's Road to 2010 Plan for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review conference; what items will be included in the plan; and if he will make a statement. [282054]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Road to 2010 plan is a cross-departmental effort that is co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office. As outlined in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's speech at Lancaster House on 17 March 2009, the plan will set out proposals in the following areas:

The safe expansion of Civil Nuclear in the UK and globally;

Fissile Material Security and Nuclear Counter-Terrorism;

Disarmament and non-proliferation; and,

The role and development of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international institutions.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sudanese government on the allocation of funding to non-governmental organisations to support the forthcoming elections. [282397]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly discuss support to elections with the National Elections Commission (NEC), the body charged by the Sudanese Government with delivering elections. The NEC has not yet finalised the budget for elections, which we expect will include allocations of funding for non-government organisations.

We are also in close contact with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which oversees basket funds provided by donors to support elections. We want significant funds to be made available for civic education—the bulk of these activities would be implemented by non-government organisations—and we have emphasised this to UNDP.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to the Doha peace talks on Darfur; what recent steps he has taken to seek to secure progress in those talks; and if he will make a statement. [282826]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK strongly supports the African Union/UN political process for Darfur led by Joint Chief Mediator Bassole and welcomes also Qatar's important contribution. We have committed £1 million to support the process.

We welcomed the signing in Doha on 17 February 2009 of an initial agreement by the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). We have urged the parties to fully implement the commitments they made. We support the mediators' intention to engage other Darfur leaders and also civil society in further discussions.

The UK Special Representative for Sudan, together with his P5 and EU counterparts, reaffirmed their support for the Darfur political process in a meeting in Qatar on 27 May 2009. They jointly urged the Government of Sudan and JEM to show flexibility, stressed the need for input from all sectors of Darfuri society, and reiterated calls for all parties to urgently accept the invitation extended by the mediators.

We continue to maintain contact with the government of Sudan and other parties to the conflict to urge them to take concrete steps to find a just and lasting solution to the problems of Darfur.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much compensation has been paid to foreign nationals who were victims of terrorism in the UK in each year since 1997. [282494]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as the Minister for Humanitarian Assistance.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority does not maintain records for the nationalities of those to whom it makes criminal injuries compensation awards. However, the numbers of awards made under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) to overseas residents who were victims of terrorism in the UK, and the total value of these awards, for the years 1997-98 to 2008-09 are detailed in the following table:

	Number of awards made under the CICS to individuals with addresses outside the UK	*Total value of awards (£)*
1997-98	0	0
1998-99	0	0
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	1	2,713
2001-02	1	3,225
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	6	44,001
2006-07	11	79,807
2007-08	16	185,266
2008-09	3	539,491

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which countries he has made representations regarding compensation for British victims of overseas terrorism. [282496]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An EU Council Directive of 29 April 2004 requires EU member states to provide fair and appropriate compensation to victims of intentional crime committed in a member state. Many countries outside the EU also offer compensation to foreign nationals who are victims of terrorism in their countries. Where other governments have compensation schemes, we help signpost them to families if an offer of compensation has not been immediately forthcoming from the country in which the incident took place.

For countries that do not have compensation schemes, we encourage governments to pay compensation to British victims of overseas terrorism. The issue of compensation schemes has been raised with a number of countries, with the aim of more governments around the world compensating victims of terrorism, as the Government does if there is a terrorist incident in the UK.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals affected by overseas terrorism have been assisted by exceptional assistance measures since 2006; and how much each such measure cost. [282498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since the Exceptional Assistance Measures were announced to Parliament in June 2008, they have been activated for two incidents affecting British nationals who have been victims of terrorism overseas: to assist the families of those affected by the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008, and more recently to cover the costs of repatriating the bodies of two British nationals who were kidnapped in Iraq in 2007. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided assistance to the six families affected by these two incidents. The current figure for the Mumbai attacks stands at £7,592 and at £20,000 for the Iraq kidnap repatriation costs.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Western Sahara: fisheries, if he will make it his policy to seek the inclusion of a reference to Western Sahara in any future proposed agreement between the EU and Morocco on fisheries. [282868]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans at present to seek the inclusion of a reference to the territory of Western Sahara in any future EU fisheries agreement with Morocco.

Future negotiations on the expiry of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) will take into account any changes in the situation of Western Sahara that may occur before the FPA's expiry in 2011.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Theft

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the findings contained in English Heritage's Nighthawking Survey; and if he will make a statement. [283268]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 June 2009]*: English Heritage are preparing a draft implementation plan for how they will respond to the recommendations of the Nighthawking Survey. They expect this to be ready shortly and will work with partners in the historic environment sector to implement it in the following months.

Digital Switchover: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the recommendations made in the Digital Britain report; and if he will make a statement. [282839]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Digital Britain report makes a number of recommendations that will involve public expenditure. Estimates of the cost of implementing them, where available, are set out here. Some proposals are subject to further consultation and discussion with stakeholders that will have a bearing on the final cost. These estimates do not include public sector staff or administration costs, or areas where further work is planned but no policy decision has yet been taken.

As outlined in the report, the main sources of funding proposed besides general taxation are a new 50 pence per month levy on fixed copper lines, the underspend on the Digital Television Switchover Help Scheme (subject to further consultation with the BBC Trust), and a contained contestable element of the TV Licence Fee from 2013 onwards, on which a public consultation was launched on 30 June.

Cost estimates

Universal Access to Broadband: estimated cost £200 million, based on current estimates of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme underspend. Other public sector organisations including the devolved authorities and regional development agencies may also contribute over the life of the project.

The National Plan for Digital Participation: up to £12 million.

Next Generation Access Broadband Networks Final Third project: to be funded by a centrally held Next Generation Fund raised through a proposed 50p per month levy on fixed copper lines, expected to raise £150-£175 million per year. A further £150,000 is to be made available to help establish an Independent Networks Cooperative Association.

Research: the Technology Strategy Board has committed to fund a £10 million digital test beds programme, and a £30 million digital innovation programme.

Support for SMEs: up to £23 million over next three years will be spent on pilot business support interventions for SMEs to assist them to exploit advanced ICT to transform their business processes.

Cost estimates not yet available

Mobile spectrum refarming: the Government have agreed to meet the costs incurred by broadcasters and Programme Making and Special Events users as a result of spectrum reallocation. Discussions are being held with Ofcom, the PMSE community and broadcasters to determine the level of costs involved and on what basis, and how, costs will be met.

Independently Funded News Consortia: the extent of public funding necessary will depend on the scope of IFNCs and the funding model adopted. Both will be among the issues tested by the planned pilots.

English Heritage: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what income English Heritage has derived from the heritage sites it owns and manages in the last 12 months; and what proportion of that income was used to meet expenditure on *(a)* site maintenance, *(b)* publicity and *(c)* staffing. [282162]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage advises that its total expenditure on the conservation, maintenance, capital development and operational management of its property portfolio in 2008-09 was £64.4 million. Earned income was £41.2 million. The following table shows expenditure for site maintenance, property related publicity and staffing of properties as a proportion of that income:

2008-09

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Expenditure as a proportion of earned income (percentage)*
Property maintenance	11.9	29
Property related publicity	3.3	8
Property based staff	16.3	39

The remainder of earned income derived goes towards funding areas including education, outreach and non-site based staff.

English Heritage: Monuments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in designating intertidal wreck sites as ancient monuments; what recent discussions he has had with English Heritage on that matter; what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals for the designation of wreck sites; and what assessment he has made of the merits of designating the Purton Hulks site, Gloucestershire, as an ancient monument. [283169]

Barbara Follett: Decisions on whether to designate monuments that meet the criteria set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the non-statutory criteria set out in PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning are taken on a case-by-case basis. No wreck sites in English waters have been designated as scheduled monuments since 2004, nor has the Department had recent discussions with English Heritage on the matter of scheduling intertidal wreck sites.

The site of the Purton Hulks is already afforded statutory protection as it lies within the Severn estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is therefore already subject to statutory controls in respect of nature conservation interests. English Heritage recently met Natural England, British Waterways and local stakeholders specifically to address co-ordinated management of the site, and to define the significance of the assemblage of vessels.

Legislative proposals for reforming the designation of marine heritage assets, including wreck sites, are included in the draft Heritage Protection Bill. We remain committed to bringing this forward at the earliest opportunity.

Sport: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department plans to provide for sport-related activities in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in 2009-10. [282563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the total projected investment in sport in Essex and Castle Point cannot be determined at this point.

Sport England has recently invested £120 million in national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport to deliver grassroots sport in the community for the period 2009-10. The NGBs are defining what they need for their sport at a national, regional and sub-regional level to ensure more people play and enjoy their sport. Investment will in turn be directed by NGBs into areas where they believe it will best achieve their, and Sport England's, strategic outcomes. These areas will vary from sport to sport and region to region. Essex is set to benefit when funding is released from the NGBs over the coming year.

It is possible to say, though, that Sport England is planning to invest £2,338,411[1] in sport in Essex for the financial year 2009-10.

This includes:

(i) Community projects

	£
Basildon Sports Village	500,000
Southend on Sea Swimming Pool	500,000
Sport at Mark Hall School	278,138
Thorpe Bay Yacht Club	67,794

(ii) Sport Unlimited

Sport Unlimited is an integral part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP)—the five hour offer. The overall aim of Sport Unlimited is to increase opportunities for Children and Young People aged five to 19 to participate regularly in sport.

It will do this by providing a range of attractive and sustainable opportunities in sporting activities for young people from the 'semi sporty population segment' to take part in out of school hours during term time and will focus on out of school hours and 'club' activities both within school and community settings.

In Essex and Castle Point, approximately £344,425 is currently assigned this financial year to deliver projects across the city.

(iii) Step into Sport

Focuses on young people aged 14 to 19, giving them opportunities to become involved in sports leadership and volunteering and encouraging them to continue this into later life. The programme is funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport as part of the PESSYP strategy, which is revitalising PE and school sport across the country. Essex has been awarded £22,000 for 2009-10.

(iv) Free Swimming

Castle Point has been allocated £110,062 of funding under the Free Swimming Programme and Colchester borough council have been awarded £105,705 of funding for the refurbishment of fitness pool facilities at Colchester Leisure World.

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[1] This is taken from Sport England's annual projected cash flow and may not be the actual figure at the end of this financial year as some organisations may not draw down the required funds until 2010-11.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which types of activity are included in his Department's target of getting two million people more active ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [273292]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is a cross-departmental commitment to get 2 million more people more active, with my Department, through Sport England, primarily responsible for getting 1 million more people playing more sport as part of this. Activities are included within this 1 million target on the basis that they are recognised as sports by the Home Country Sports Councils, and that each can be performed at least at moderate intensity. The following list gives details of these activities and their eligibility:

Equestrian

Horse riding
Horse riding—dressage
Horse riding—pony trekking
Horse riding—show jumping
Horse riding—three day eventing
Harness racing[1]
Trotting[1]
Polo

Climbing/mountaineering

Climbing—ice
Climbing—indoor/wall climbing
Climbing—rock/rock climbing
Climbing—rope
Climbing—solo
Climbing—sport
Abseiling[1]
Mountaineering
Mountaineering—high altitude
Bouldering[1]
Caving/pot holing[1]

Hockey

Hockey—field
Hockey—ice
Hockey—roller
Hockey—street

Sailing

Sailing (cruising or racing)— catamaran and multihull
Sailing (cruising or racing)—dinghy
Sailing (cruising or racing)—ice
Sailing (cruising or racing)—keelboat
Sailing (cruising or racing)—other
Yachting—land[1]
Yachting (cruising or racing)—ice
Yachting (cruising or racing)—inshore/coastal
Yachting (cruising or racing)—ocean
Yachting (cruising or racing)—offshore
Yachting (cruising or racing)—other
Windsurfing or boardsailing
Jet ski-ing/aquabike/personal water craft[3]

Running and jogging

Running—cross country/beach/fell running
Running—road
Running—track
Running—ultra marathon
Jogging

Martial Arts

Judo
Ju-jitsu
Kabaddi[1]
Karate
Martial arts
Martial arts—Chinese
Taekwondo
Tai Chi
Tang Soo Do
Aikaido
Kendo
Self defence

Swimming/diving

Swimming—deep water
Swimming—open water
Swimming/diving (indoors)
Swimming/diving (outdoors)
Diving—deep water/free3

Athletics

Athletics—field
Athletics—track

Canoeing/kayaking

Kayaking[1]
Kayaking—whitewater1
Canoe polo[1]
Canoeing[1]

Gym/fitness activities

Gym
Aerobics/step aerobics
Body attack
Body balance
Body building
Body combat/cardio kick
Body jam
Body pump
Body step
Body Vive
Exercise bike/exercise machine/spinning class
Skipping
Boxercise
Conditioning activities/circuit training/assault course/stretching/toning
Cross training
Dance exercise
Health and fitness
Step machine/Air walker/airwalk/airwalker
Keepfit/keep fit/sit ups
Yoga[2]
Pilates[2]
Weight training
Aquafit/Aquacise/Aqua aerobics/aqua aerobics/aqua fit/water aerobics[1]

Walking

Walking—cliff[1]
Walking—gorge[1]
Walking—hill walking[1]
Walking/power walking[1]
Rambling[1]
Hill trekking[1]

Snowsports

Ski flying
Skiing
Skiing—barefoot snow
Skiing—barefoot water
Skiing—extreme
Skiing—free
Skiing—grass or dry ski slope

  - Skiing—mono
  - Skiing-parachute
  - Skiing—ribbing
  - Skiing—speed
  - Snowboarding
  - Telemark
- *Cycling*
  - Recreational Cycling[1]
  - Cycling[1]
  - Cyclo-cross[1]
  - Mountain biking[1]
  - BMX[1]
  - Bicycle polo
- *Football*
  - Football/soccer (include 5 and 6-a-side and 11-a-side) (indoors)
  - Football/soccer (include 5 and 6-a-side and 11-a-side) (outdoors)
  - Futsal[1]
- *Racquet sports*
  - Squash
  - Racketball
  - Badminton
  - Tennis/real tennis/short tennis
- *Rugby*
  - Rugby League
  - Rugby Union
  - Tag rugby
  - Touch rugby
- *Wrestling*
  - Wrestling—Cumberland[1]
  - Wrestling—freestyle/sumo wrestling[1]
  - Wrestling—Greco Roman[1]
  - Wrestling—Olympic[1]
- *Gaelic sports*
  - Gaelic football
  - Gaelic sports
  - Hurling
  - Irish handball
  - Curling
- *Wheelchair sports*
  - Wheelchair sports—archery[1]
  - Wheelchair sports—basketball[1]
  - Wheelchair sports—rugby[1]
  - Wheelchair sports—table tennis[1]
  - Wheelchair sports—tennis[1]
- *Motorsports*
  - Motorcycling—motorcross
  - Motorcycling—off road
  - Motorcycling—trail riding
  - Motor racing/banger racing
  - Motor sprints
  - Motorcycling—trials riding
  - Motorcycling—enduro
  - Motorcycling—super moto
  - Motorcycling—track racing
  - Motorcycling—drag/sprint
  - Motorcycling—rallying
  - Motorcycling—sidecar racing
  - Rally Cross
  - Rallying
  - Road racing (motors)
  - Trials racing
  - Karting
  - Go Karting
  - Auto Cross
  - Motorcycling—speedway
  - Drag racing
  - Autotests
  - Hill Climb
- *Air sports*
  - Sky diving
  - Soaring[1]
  - Parachuting[1]
  - Paragliding[1]
  - Gliding[1]
  - Hang-gliding[1]
- *Gymnastics*
  - Gymnastics
  - Trampolining/trampoline[1]
- *Baseball/softball*
  - Softball
  - Baseball
- *Other aquatic sports*
  - Sub aqua/SCUBA diving[1]
  - Snorkelling[1]
  - Hockey—underwater
  - Octopush[1]
  - Water polo[1]
- *Other team sports/activities*
  - American football
  - Australian Rules
  - Football[1]
  - Basketball
  - Bowls[1]
  - Camogie
  - Cricket
  - Dodgeball[1]
  - Fives—rugby[1]
  - Netball
  - Rounders
  - Stoolball
  - Ultimate Frisbee[1]
  - Volleyball
  - Floorball[1]
  - Polocrosse[1]
  - Tug of war[1]
  - Handball[1]
  - Korfball[1]
  - Lacrosse
- *Other sports*
  - Angling[1]
  - Archery[2]
  - Arm wrestling[1]
  - Baton twirling
  - Biathlon
  - Body boarding[1]
  - Bobsleigh[1]

- Boccia[1]
- Boxing
- Cheerleading
- Croquet[2]
- Dragon boat racing[1]
- Fencing
- Fives—Eton[1]
- Frisby/Frisbee[1]
- Golf/pitch and putt/putting
- High wire[1]
- Highland Games[1]
- Hovering[1]
- Ice skating
- Kite surfing/kite boarding[1]
- Life saving
- Luge[1]
- Luge—street[1]
- Medau[1]
- Mine exploration[1]
- Modern pentathlon[1]
- Orienteering
- Powerboat racing[1]
- Powerlifting
- Rafting/white water rafting[1]
- Roller blading/roller skating[1]
- Rowing
- Sea fishing[1]
- Skateboarding
- Skating—in-line/inline skating
- Sombo
- Surfing/boardsurfing/board surfing[1]
- Surf life saving
- Sportsboats[1]
- Table tennis[1]
- Tobogganing/sledging/sledding[1]
- Triathlon
- Wake boarding/wakeboarding[1]
- Waterskiing
- Weightlifting

[1] Respondents are asked about the intensity they did the activity at and only included if at least moderate intensity. All other sports on the list above are automatically classified as at least moderate intensity.

[2] Included in the '1 million' indicator—for people aged 65 and over

[3] To contribute to the '1 million' indicator cycling activity must be undertaken for at least once a week, 30 minutes, moderate intensity

Examples of activities that will contribute to the wider, cross-Government target to get 2 million people more active are outlined in Be Active Be Healthy on the Department of Health website:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094358

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [282682]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has worked with partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP) to respond quickly to the changing humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Since January 2008, DFID has committed £22.5 million to support those worst affected by high food prices and drought. £17 million of our support was channelled through emergency appeals led by the WFP. These funds helped reach 8.7 million vulnerable people.

The 2009 Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan was launched on 3 February 2009. Led by the United Nations, it represents a major step towards a coherent and prioritised strategy to alleviate the pressing humanitarian needs of the Afghan people. The plan will help guide DFID's response to future humanitarian appeals. It is available on the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs website:

http://ochaonline.un.org/

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's aid programmes for agriculture and development in Bangladesh of the Tipaimukh Dam construction project; and if he will make a statement. [282798]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not carried out an assessment of the impacts of the Tipaimukh hydro-electric dam on our aid to agriculture and development in Bangladesh. It is an issue for the Governments of India and Bangladesh. DFID is supporting, with the World Bank, the South Asia Water Initiative which enables a process of dialogue among south Asian countries on common rivers and dispute resolution.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [283161]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are no full-time equivalent members of staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) working exclusively on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

DFID's involvement in the games is through providing funding to the International Inspiration Programme, which is co-ordinated by the UK Government's Olympic Executive. As DFID does not manage the International Inspiration Programme directly, only a small amount of one full-time equivalent staff member's time is spent on monitoring the project management of the initiative.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282895]

Mr. Michael Foster: No sections or non-departmental public bodies of the Department for International Development (DFID) have asked for monies gained from efficiency savings to be used for pay increases in the 2009 pay offer to staff.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on departmental public expenditure, which projects funded by the Returns and Reintegration Fund counted as official development assistance; what the cost of each project was; and if he will make a statement. [272379]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

One Returns and Reintegration Fund project counts as official development assistance. The Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders and Deported Persons programme supports the Jamaican Department for Correctional Services in rehabilitating and reintegrating Jamaican ex-offenders including former Jamaican prisoners returning from the UK. The project's aim is to reduce reoffending and improve security in Jamaica, and thereby to remove one of the main constraints to long-term economic development.

The total budget for this three year project is £2.97 million, with £2.035 million currently being financed from the fund. Project spend in financial year 2008-09 was approximately £170,000.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish his Department's forthcoming White Paper on International Development [282552]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The forthcoming White Paper on International Development will be laid before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

Developing Countries: Languages

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on the promotion of regional languages in developing countries. [282317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

As the Government Department responsible for policy on international human rights, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office encourages governments to protect the rights of all their citizens, including those belonging to minorities. We regularly raise the situation of those belonging to minorities in countries where we judge that protection of their rights is lacking. Our approach is guided in particular by Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Development Aid

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department has committed to developing countries for *(a)* improving maternal health and *(b)* address sexual and reproductive (i) health and (ii) rights in each of the next three years. [282514]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are committed to spending £6 billion on strengthening health systems and services over the seven years to 2015. The Department for International Development's (DFID) country-led development approach is to support recipient governments to spend development assistance on the priorities they set themselves for helping their people out of poverty. These priorities are identified by analysis of the key health needs within countries—including sexual, reproductive and maternal health and rights. Direct support to governments is complimented by support to civil society and other implementing partners.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to fund programmes for the *(a)* screening and *(b)* treatment of ante-natal syphilis in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [282515]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are investing £6 billion up to 2015 to strengthen health systems that will help to ensure that women in poor countries have access to quality reproductive health care.

The focus of Department for International Development (DFID) supported health system strengthening is to ensure that evidence-based, cost-effective interventions—such as syphilis screening and treatment in antenatal care—are accessible to all who need them.

The International Health Partnership, which was launched by the Prime Minister in September 2007, will help ensure that donor resources are better co-ordinated, that they back strong national health development plans and that they focus on strengthening health systems to deliver better services and improved health outcomes.

Gaza

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [282495]

Mr. Michael Foster: The recent conflict intensified an already difficult humanitarian situation in Gaza. While the pace of deterioration has slowed since the ceasefire in January, the humanitarian situation remains extremely serious.

Most basic foodstuffs are now available in Gaza. However, high prices and access restrictions on many other food items mean that around 90 per cent. of Gazans are still partly dependent on food aid.

Success of the humanitarian response and early recovery effort requires opening of the crossings from Israel in order to allow movement of materials and personnel into Gaza. The UK continues to press the Israeli Government on this issue.

India: Overseas Aid

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to fund rehabilitation and community development projects in Kandmahal, Orissa State, India. [282866]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £10 million for community development in Orissa through the Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) from 2004-10. So far, OTELP has helped increase incomes, reduce malnutrition and improve water and sanitation for over 375,000 tribal men and women in four districts, including Kandmahal.

Maternal Health Strategy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made on preparing its forthcoming annual update on the implementation of its maternal health strategy; and if he will make a statement. [282476]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) strategy "Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action" was published in September 2004. Three progress reports have been published since then—in December 2005, April 2007 and June 2008.

We will update our existing maternal health strategy and incorporate into this our existing position paper on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (published July 2004). In producing the updated strategy will we draw on our experience to date of implementing our existing strategy and the information in our three progress reports. We have also commissioned an evidence paper to inform our thinking which should be completed in autumn 2009.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he plans to consult stakeholders in the fields of *(a)* sexual and reproductive rights and *(b)* HIV/AIDS in preparing his Department's annual update on the implementation of its maternal health strategy. [282477]

Mr. Michael Foster: Earlier this year the Department for International Development (DFID) held an initial stakeholder workshop on the development of the new strategy with representatives from across the sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal health and HIV and AIDS communities. The feedback from this event confirmed our view that the new strategy should cover both Millennium Development Goal 5 targets (5a to reduce maternal mortality and 5b to provide universal access to reproductive health).

In producing the updated strategy will we draw on our experience to date of implementing our existing strategy and the information in our three progress reports. We have also commissioned an evidence paper to inform our thinking which should be completed in autumn 2009. We will continue to consult with interested stakeholders as we move forward with the strategy development.

Pakistan: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate has been made of the number of humanitarian *(a)* groups and *(b)* workers operating in Peshawar; and what recent assessment has been made of their capacity to meet the need for humanitarian assistance in that region. [281906]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are approximately 55 international humanitarian agencies working in the North West Frontier Province supporting those displaced by conflict. Many of these agencies have staff based in or visiting Peshawar, but most are primarily based in Islamabad. The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made an estimate of the number of humanitarian workers based in Peshawar as it is not an effective indicator of humanitarian capacity for operating in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) more generally.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to answer Question 272379, on official development assistance, tabled on 28 April 2009. [282564]

Mr. Michael Foster: Question 272379 has been transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for answer. A response will be issued shortly.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* aid agencies and *(b)* humanitarian workers operating in camps for displaced people in northern Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [282821]

Mr. Michael Foster: In Vavuniya District, where the majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) are located, as of 28 June, the Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that there are approximately 40 local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), 27 international NGOs, 11 UN agencies, two donor missions and four Red Cross entities (Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and German Red Cross). As many of these organisations have staff who also work in other districts it is difficult to estimate numbers of workers, but at any one time there may be between 500 and 1,000 workers engaged in humanitarian activities in Vavuniya District, not counting daily labourers.

Thailand and Burma

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of Thailand on the welfare and living conditions [illegible] people who have left eastern Burma owing to the renewed military operation in that region; and if he will make a statement. [282837]

Mr. Michael Foster: Staff based in the British embassy in Bangkok have been in contact with the Thai Ministry of the Interior, and with non-governmental organisations working on the Thailand-Burma border, about the welfare and living conditions of recently arrived refugees from eastern Burma.

Humanitarian assistance for the refugees is being provided by the Thai authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organisations. This assistance includes food, plastic sheeting for shelter, blankets, bed-nets and medical care. Planning is under way to prepare a new site in Thailand to accommodate the refugees.

The Department for International Development plans to provide about £7.4 million over the next three years to support Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced people inside Burma.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation on the Thai-Burmese border. [282501]

Mr. Michael Foster: Latest estimates from the Government of Thailand, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) suggest that about 3,200 refugees have recently entered Thailand to escape fighting in eastern Burma.

Immediate humanitarian assistance for the refugees is being provided by the Thai authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organisations. This assistance includes food, plastic sheeting for shelter, blankets, bed-nets and medical care. Planning is underway to prepare a new site in Thailand to accommodate the refugees.

The Department for International Development plans to provide about £7.4 million over the next three years to support Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced people inside Burma.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Economic Downturn

10. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her Department's latest assessment is of the effects of the recession on charities. [283147]

Angela E. Smith: In recognition of the challenges for the challenges for the sector during the recession, we have provided a significant package of support for the third sector of up to £42.5 million of targeted support, plus the £16.7 million hardship fund announced in the Budget in April, plus the £1.2 billion future jobs fund which the sector will have a share in.

This comprehensive package of measures includes support for volunteers, grants to small organisations, social enterprises, support for jobs, and loans to assist partnership working.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her Department's latest assessment is of the effects of the recession on charities. [283140]

Angela E. Smith: We recognise there is a double challenge for the sector during the economic downturn—an increased demand for services and concerns about their financial viability.

In response to that we have provided a significant package of support for the third sector of up to £42.5 million of targeted support which is delivering real help now, plus the £16.7 million hardship fund announced in the Budget in April, plus the £1.2 billion future jobs fund which the sector will have a share in.

This comprehensive package of measures includes support for volunteers, grants to small organisations, social enterprises, support for jobs and loans to assist partnership working.

Business Disruption Plans

11. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps her Department is taking as part of its civil contingencies responsibilities to increase the proportion of small businesses which have a business disruption plan. [283148]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today.

Emergency Planning College

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she last visited her Department's Emergency Planning College to discuss its work; and if she will make a statement. [277326]

Tessa Jowell: I was appointed as Minister for the Cabinet Office on 5 June 2009 and have not yet visited the Emergency Planning college.

I will receive regular updates from the head of the civil contingencies secretariat on all civil contingencies matters.

Lobbying: Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the level of information which is published about relations between Government and lobbyists. [283138]

Angela E. Smith: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and analysis. All such contacts are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

The Government are currently considering a recommendation from the Public Administration Select Committee on this issue and will respond shortly.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in apprenticeships became unemployed in *(a)* the last six months for which figures are available and *(b)* the six-month period a year before that six-month period. [281435]

Kevin Brennan: We do not currently hold data centrally about the total number of apprentices made redundant. Arrangements are in place from 1 August 2009 onwards to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. Working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we have established a matching service to help apprentices at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices, in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy.

Departmental Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department will reach the age of 65 years by the year 2011. [283364]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the Department, 29 of existing employees will be 65 or older by 2011.

Further Education: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to ensure consistent *(a)* assessment, *(b)* recording and *(c)* quality assurance of educational standards in the 14-19 diplomas. [282880]

Mr. Iain Wright: Diplomas come under the responsibility of the independent regulator of qualifications and examinations, Ofqual. Ofqual has responsibility to protect the interests of learners by ensuring that results are fair and accurate and that assessment and standards are appropriately established and comparable across awarding bodies.

I have asked the Chief Regulator to write to my hon. Friend to set out the steps taken in relation to Diploma assessment, recording and quality assurance.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which sections of his Department have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offer to staff. [283214]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who each have separate pay awards in place for their employees. The Office only reimburses those Departments for the costs involved.

Hebrides Range

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the relocation of operations away from the Hebrides Range. [282573]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I discuss a variety of issues with Ministry of Defence ministerial colleagues including the Secretary of State. I also hosted a meeting of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) and the Western Isles Council established task group today at Dover House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many small businesses in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands claimed relief under the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme in the most recent period for which figures are available. [283230]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tamworth borough council reported that the number of businesses receiving small business rate relief was 422 at 31 December 2006, the latest date for which data are available. At the same date, the number of businesses in the West Midlands receiving small business rate relief was 40,138. Data are not available at constituency level.

Council of Regional Ministers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Council of Regional Ministers last met. [283136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Council of Regional Ministers, which meets every six weeks or so, last met on 16 June 2009.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tax appeals the Valuation Tribunal Service has considered in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in a change to a lower band for the dwelling in question. [282751]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) has held information centrally on the number of successful appeals since the beginning of 2006-07 in England.

	Number of council tax appeals received	*Number of council tax appeals considered by tribunals*	*Number of council tax appeals allowed or allowed in part*	*Number of decisions resulting in a lower band*
2004-05	24,422	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	21,805	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	27,130	5,274	646	n/a

	Number of council tax appeals received	*Number of council tax appeals considered by tribunals*	*Number of council tax appeals allowed or allowed in part*	*Number of decisions resulting in a lower band*
2007-08	34,340	8,666	1,056	n/a
2008-09	6,950	5,624	887	722

n/a = Not available

Appeals to the VTS can be made about matters other than a property's banding. The VTS has held information centrally on whether appeals resulted in a change of banding only since 2008-09.

Council tax policy in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for implementation of each proposal contained in his Department's response to the Councillors Commission. [282746]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Councillors Commission Report 'Representing the Future' published in December 2007 made a number of recommendations aimed at central Government and a range of other partners and stakeholders. We published a response to 'Representing the Future' in July 2008 which set out who was taking forward which recommendations and how.

The Local Government Association, Improvement and Development Agency and the Leadership Centre for local government are taking forward the following actions, which were aimed at local authorities:

Raising awareness of councils and councillors and what they do

Support for councillors' role as a link between the local authority and the community

Role descriptions for councillors

Engagement with young people

Training and support for councillors and potential councillors

Promoting the councillor role to employers

Recognising and accrediting service

Exit interviews for councillors

Better allowance information.

Other recommendations were aimed specifically at political parties, the BBC and Ofcom, and employers and we trust that they are taking forward their commitments in response to these.

The Government are taking forward the following actions.

Recommendation	*Action*
Recommendation 1—Introduce a statutory duty to promote democracy	This is being taken forward in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (Clauses 1-9) which recently completed Committee stage in the House of Commons. We intend for the duty to be implemented in April 2010.
Recommendations 6 and 7—Work with Third Sector on Councillor Communications	The Empowerment Fund is funding third sector organisations Urban Forum and Bassac over three years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 to carry out work under the theme of improving communications between councillors and citizens.
Recommendation 11—Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women Councillors Taskforce	This was launched in May 2008. 13 outreach events have been held across the country to date reaching over 800 women. In April 2009, the first national councillor mentoring/shadowing scheme was launched as part of the Taskforce project. This scheme is for 50 women with an additional 50 places on an e-training learning programme to obtain a community leadership qualification.
Recommendations 12, 30 and 46—Revise the publicity code and associated guidance	Consultation on this finished in mid March. Consultation included a question on whether specific guidance on councillors' support needs to be clarified. Government are currently looking at the consultation findings and will decide what, if any, revisions are to be made and the timetable for any revisions.
Recommendations 13, 14—New Secondary curriculum and revision of Primary curriculum; Young Mayors and Young Advisors	QCA are currently running a consultation on proposed reforms to the primary curriculum including citizenship - the consultation closes on 24 July 2009. From January 2010, schools will be assisted with implementation by a comprehensive support package to aid them in planning for the new curriculum. The new curriculum began rolling out in secondary schools from September 2008, beginning with Key Stage 3. Changes to the Key Stage 4 curriculum begin rolling out in September 2009 in line with changes to GCSEs. Young Mayors: CLG will be inviting applications in July from local authorities who would like to host a Young Mayor scheme. Details of successful applicants will be announced in late August. Young Advisors: CLG has supported the Young Advisors Charity to extend the Young Advisors scheme to more local areas. There are now 41 schemes operating across the country at a local level with around 400 trained Young Advisors.
Recommendation 23—Revising politically restricted posts	Amendments to the Widdicombe rules removing the salary bar have been taken forward in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which is currently being considered by Parliament.

Recommendation	*Action*
Recommendation 29—Work with audit commission on CAAs to consider how council leadership reflects the community	The CAA guidance for inspectorate staff makes specific reference in its section on empowerment to the Network of Empowering Authorities framework, which provides a benchmark for an 'ideal' authority. The framework includes 'strong democracy' as a key success factor setting out that an ideal authority would be where 'community involvement encourages more people to take on governance roles and stand for office. Members and officers proactively promote democracy, raising understanding and awareness among citizens and young people'. The accompanying diagnostic questions include: 'Does the profile of your Members reflect that of your local population?'
Recommendation 51—Accreditation	In addition to work being developed by the local government sector, we are taking forward a review of accreditation as part of the Take Part programme of work. A review was completed in February 2009 and proposals for taking forward an accreditation programme are being currently being considered.
Recommendation 52--Alderwomen	During the passage of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (LDEDC Bill) an Opposition amendment was laid in the House of Lords regarding the use of the title "alderwomen" and this is now included in the Bill.
Recommendation 56—Parish and Town Councillors	The Department is funding NALC to conduct an annual survey of the profiles of parish councillors, including analysis and dissemination. Councils that have achieved Quality Status (over 650) will be surveyed in 2009-10 and all parish councils (over 9,000) in 2010-11.

Provisions for loss of office payments, remote attendance at council meetings and remote voting, and voting incentives were originally to be included in a draft Community Empowerment Bill. Given the stage of the parliamentary cycle, we have decided to concentrate our energy on the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which contains the major proposals from the Councillors Commission, and not to publish a draft Empowerment Bill. We therefore have no current plans for legislation to implement these proposals.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to monitor the delivery by local authorities of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) scheme in relation to *(a)* levels of local authority contributions to DFG, *(b)* the prioritisation of applications from individuals in urgent need of adaptations to their homes and *(c)* levels of compliance with target times for delivery under the scheme; and if he will take steps to ensure that uprating of DFG funding allocations by his Department is implemented by local authorities administering the scheme. [283193]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 sets the legislative framework for the Disabled Facilities Grant programme and it is for the local housing authority to assess the need of a disabled person for housing adaptations in the light of the mandatory entitlements. Local authorities are responsible for the local management and administration of the programme and have increased discretion to make local decisions.

It is a condition of payment of every grant that the eligible works are carried out within 12 months from the date of approval of the application concerned. If local authorities act incorrectly a complaint can be made to the local government ombudsman after the correct complaint procedures have been made to the council.

Local authorities are required to complete an annual claim and monitoring form to the Department and maintain financial records which are subject to auditing requirements. This includes information on the level of contribution claimed from central Government and levels of expenditure.

Empty Property

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there are in each region. [281935]

Mr. Ian Austin: The total number of empty dwellings reported by local authorities in England, by region, as at 6 October 2008, are shown as follows.

Region	*Number of empty dwellings*
North East	50,623
North West	137,849
Yorkshire and the Humber	102,241
East Midlands	76,956
West Midlands	79,848
East of England	75,198
London	85,924
South East	105,111
South West	70,272
Total England	784,022

Information about the number of empty non-domestic properties is currently being collected and will be published later in the year.

Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private dwellings were being leased by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities for the purpose of housing homeless households in the latest quarter for which figures are available. [280293]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

The number of households housed in temporary accommodation by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter, is also collected. This figure consists of those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority; and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The latest figures for the number of households housed in temporary accommodation leased from the private sector by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities are shown as follows:

Number of households in temporary accommodation arranged under homelessness legislation, leased from the private sector by registered social landlords (RSLs) and local authorities (LAs), as at 31 March 2009

Type of temporary accommodation	*Number of households*
Private sector leased by RSL	11,700
Private sector leased by LA	25,750

Source:
CLG P1E returns (quarterly)

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net subsidy paid to each local authority from the Housing Revenue Account was in each of the last three years. [282658]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested has been deposited in the Library.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what eligibility criteria apply to *(a)* developers and *(b)* social landlords in respect of assistance under the Kickstart housing delivery scheme. [282412]

John Healey: Full details on the eligibility criteria for the Kickstart housing delivery scheme is included in the guidance notes for the scheme and published on the HCA website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kickstart_housing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Huntingdonshire and *(c)* Peterborough in each of the last eight quarters. [283412]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on house building completions is not available by constituency.

The following table shows the number of new homes built in Peterborough and Huntingdonshire in each of the last eight quarters.

	2007			*2008*				*2009*
Local authority	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*
Huntingdonshire District Council	141	123	186	83	195	156	151	139
Peterborough City Council UA	324	184	207	214	230	168	154	126

Source:
New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Housing: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes classified as energy-efficient have been built in Crosby constituency in each of the last five years. [282519]

Mr. Ian Austin: All new homes built in England in the last five years have been required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in Part L of the Building Regulations. The Part L standard for new homes was raised by 25 per cent. in 2002 and by a further 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. The following table shows the total number of new build dwellings in the north-west region for each year from 2004-05 onwards.

	Number
2004-05	17,910
2005-06	20,620
2006-07	18,070
2007-08	20,310
2008-09	13,700

The Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) provides an energy rating for new dwellings by demonstrating compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations. In general, homes built to current Part L correspond with SAP ratings of B or C. Some homes are built to exceed minimum regulatory standards, for example as a result of building to the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Housing: Energy

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes classified as energy-efficient have been built in Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency in each of the last five years. [282790]

Mr. Ian Austin: All new homes built in England in the last five years have been required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in Part L of the Building Regulations. The Part L standard for new homes was raised by 25 per cent. in 2002 and by a further 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. The following table shows the total number of new build dwellings in the Yorkshire and Humberside region for each year from 2004-2005 onwards.

	Number
2004-05	14,190
2005-06	16,040
2006-07	16,250
2007-08	15,670
2008-09	11,250

The Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) provides an energy rating for new dwellings by demonstrating compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations. In general, homes built to current Part L correspond with SAP ratings of B or C. Some homes are built to exceed minimum regulatory standards, for example as a result of building to the Code for Sustainable Homes.

SAP is used to generate Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for new build dwellings. From 6 April 2008, it became mandatory to lodge all SAP EPCs for new build dwellings on the England and Wales Domestic EPC Register. In the constituency of Barnsley, East and Mexborough 177 SAP EPC lodgements were made in 2008 and 47 SAP EPC lodgements have been made in 2009 up to and including 25 June.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria apply in respect of the release of funds by HomeBuy Zone Agents under the HomeBuy Direct scheme. [282408]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency are responsible for releasing funds for the HomeBuy Direct scheme. HomeBuy agents are responsible for assessing an applicant's eligibility for the HomeBuy Direct scheme, these are the same as for all HomeBuy products.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been sold under the HomeBuy Direct Scheme in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire. [282431]

John Healey: To date no properties have been sold under HomeBuy Direct in Tamworth and Staffordshire. Units in both areas are likely to become available to purchasers later this year.

Housing: Prices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) in which local authorities in England the average house price is above £225,000; [282398]

(2) whether his Department plans to increase the valuation cap under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [282411]

John Healey: The property price cap for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme is not set at one national value; the cap varies regionally to reflect the differing level of property prices. These regional property price caps for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme have been set with reference to Q4 2008 lower quartile property prices, reflecting the aim of the scheme to provide targeted support for vulnerable households at risk of homelessness. The level of the caps was increased on 1 May and is now at least 150 per cent. of lower quartile property prices in each region which are comparable to average house prices in all English regions. We have no plans to increase the caps further. Housing Associations already have flexibility to exceed the cap if appropriate depending on households' individual circumstances.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Data on average house prices at a local authority level are published quarterly by CLG and can be viewed online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-581.xls

Invest to Save Budget

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many Invest to Save bids his Department sponsored in each of the last five years; what the total monetary value of such bids was; and what proportion of such bids were related to housing projects; [282611]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies received from Invest to Save budgets in each of the last five years. [282612]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received no funding for non-departmental public bodies from the Invest to budgets during the last five years.

The number of Invest to Save Projects supported by my department over the last five years and funding received are as follows:

ISB Round	*Number of projects supported*	*Project total (£000)*
Round 5 (2003-04)	9	4,418
Round 6 (2004-05)	3	2,003
Round 7 (2005-06)	8	11,923
Round 8 (2006-07)	5	4,074

ISB Round	*Number of projects supported*	*Project total (£000)*
Round 9 (2007-08)[1]	0	0
Total	25	22,418

[1] There was no new CLG sponsored ISB projects in 2007-2008.

Note:

Two housing related ISB projects were supported by my Department.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for Homeowners Mortgage Support have been granted to residents of *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire. [282432]

John Healey: The aim of Homeowners Mortgage Support is to prevent repossessions, where households suffer a temporary income shock. After taking money advice, homeowners apply to their lenders to join the scheme, which allows them to defer up to 70 per cent. of the interest due. The Government have published an impact assessment, which estimates how many borrowers, at UK level, could be eligible. Official figures on the number of households entering the scheme will be published later this year.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to assist households ineligible for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to avoid repossession. [282760]

John Healey: In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court.

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme is a targeted scheme aimed at helping the most vulnerable homeowners to avoid homelessness. Further targeted help is available through Support for Mortgage Interest or Homeowners Mortgage Support. Local authorities provide advice and information on the range of help available, and this information is also available from the DirectGov website.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for Homeowners Mortgage Support have been granted to residents of *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency. [283172]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) today (PQ 282432).

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency made a separate assessment for business rates for each port operator working in the hereditament of a statutory port in 2005. [283351]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An entry in the 2005 rating lists was made for each of the statutory port operators where they were in occupation of a hereditament within a designated port. In some cases there is more than one rating list entry where the statutory port operator occupied more than one separately rateable hereditament.

Where any part of a port is occupied by another business operator, who is not the statutory designated port operator, their hereditament within the port falls to be separately rated. For the 2005 rating list about 1,600 separate hereditaments were rated within ports in England.

The recent rating review of ports found that around 600 hereditaments in England should be separately assessed as these hereditaments were not occupied by the designated port operator as at 1 April 2005.

Social Rented Housing: Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the eligibility criteria for social housing providers are in respect of the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme scheme. [282385]

John Healey: The eligibility criteria for the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme housing delivery scheme is included in the guidance notes for the scheme and published on the HCA website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/energy-saving-programme

Supporting People Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities in Supporting People grants in each of the last five years. [283330]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government is responsible for the Supporting People programme and makes all programme and administrative grant payments to local authorities, in respect of this. Information on the amount of Supporting People grant allocated to 152 top tier local authorities for the last five years can be found on the Supporting People website at:

www.spkweb.org.uk/subject/finance

A summary of the Supporting People grant allocated to local authorities in the last five years is provided in the following table.

Supporting People grant allocation

	Programme grant allocation (£ billion)	*Admin grant allocation (£ million)*
2005-06	1.715	40
2006-07	1.685	40

Supporting People grant allocation

	Programme grant allocation (£ billion)	Admin grant allocation (£ million)
2007-08	1.696	40
2008-09	1.686	38
2009-10	1.666	35

The Supporting People programme is administered by local authorities and it is up to them to decide how the funding is allocated based on their local needs and priorities identified in their five year Supporting People strategies. Further information is available at:

http://www.spkweb.org.uk/Subjects/Statistics/

and

http://www.spclientrecord.org.uk/pubs.cfm

Temporary Accommodation: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency in each of the last five years; and what the average time spent in such accommodation was. [283181]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level. Merseyside comprises Knowsley, St. Helens and Wirral Metropolitan borough councils, Liverpool city council and Sefton council. The constituency of Crosby falls within Sefton.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W, given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Child Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people *(a)* enrolled on and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in the childcare sector in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [280243]

Kevin Brennan: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts and completions in each compete academic year since 2005, in the apprenticeship framework 'Children's Care, Learning and Development'.

Apprenticeship starts and completions in child care

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Starts	12,300	13,200	15,300
Completions	6,200	7,200	7,600

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
WBLILR

Banks: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage banks to participate in the Export Credit Guarantees Department guaranteed finance packages. [illegible]

Ian Lucas: Since the start of 2009, the Government have introduced a number of initiatives which will provide real help to exporters, as well as other businesses, during the current economic downturn. These have included the Working Capital Scheme, and ECGD is currently consulting with banks as well as exporters on proposals for a Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme. The Government are considering other measures to provide real help to UK exporters, including a possible export trade credit insurance scheme along the lines of that announced for domestic business in the Budget which will address the cash flow, credit and investment needs of businesses. The Government have and will continue to involve the banks in its initiatives.

Broadband

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of provision of universal broadband access at 2Mbps on the global competitiveness of businesses in rural areas. [282000]

Mr. McFadden [*holding answer 25 June 2009*]: Faster and more reliable broadband can help rural businesses to develop and adopt more productive, efficient and innovative ways of working enabling them to compete more effectively in the global economy. It can also enable rural businesses to gain access to new markets which may not have been previously possible due to the existence of high barriers to entry and exploit the new business opportunities created by the rapid growth in e-commerce which can extend beyond the UK's geographical borders.

An initial impact assessment on Universal Service Commitment was published as part of the Digital Britain, but deliberately did not contain any quantitative information on the expected costs and benefits of the Government's proposals for a Universal Service Commitment for broadband of 2 Mbps, as this may distort the procurement process. A full impact assessment will be carried out after the competitive procurement process has taken place.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people in rural areas receive the same access to high speed broadband as their urban counterparts. [278698]

Mr. McFadden: The Digital Britain final report was published on 16 June and contained more detailed information on Government's commitment to providing universal broadband access to virtually UK homes and businesses at a speed of 2Mbps by 2012. In addition to this, a 50p per month levy will be imposed on all fixed telephone lines to create a Next Generation Fund to ensure Next Generation Broadband reaches the final third of homes that the market will not otherwise deliver to.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282336]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold information regarding payments made to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1988 by the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPB). Each NDPB is required to publish such payments in their independent annual accounts.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which buildings the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills took a lease on; and how long each such lease was for. [282852]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills did not take any leases on buildings that it occupied. Responsibility for buildings in which DIUS staff were located rested with either Department for Children, Schools and Families or the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, with the exception of Polaris House in Swindon which is owned by the research councils.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281081]

Mr. McFadden: In the last five years there have been 14 breaches of information security recorded in my Department.

The Department and its agencies report all significant data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and ICO. Information on data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the resource accounts.

The Department takes its data security responsibilities very seriously. We have strict security policies in place, and ensure staff have sufficient information and are trained to meet their responsibilities.

BIS Agency chief executives will be responding separately.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280565]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's Permanent Secretary, Simon Fraser, is the responsible official.

Departmental Food Supplies

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281949]

Mr. McFadden: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by BIS's predecessor's contracted service partner was 87.5 per cent. in 2006-07 and 87 per cent. in 2007-08. A third report is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2288-89W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website in each of the last 12 months. [280729]

Mr. McFadden: In the period March 2008-February 2009 unique visitors and page impressions for the core BERR website:

	Unique visitors	*Page impressions*
March 2008	511,536	2,385,231
April 2008	512,422	2,443,138
May 2008	532,300	2,480,333
June 2008	563,267	2,694,709
July 2008	587,369	2,840,968
August 2008	516,080	2,372,979
September 2008	641,686	2,932,840
October 2008	753,954	3,648,423
November 2008	676,204	3,452,227
December 2008	546,116	2,584,510
January 2009	796,574	3,770,379
February 2009	690,263	3,238,879

Other websites operated by the Department are not centrally managed. Information on visitor numbers and page impressions for these sites is not centrally held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282536]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 June 2009]:* The HMT Civil Service Pay Guidance 2009-10 provided the flexibility for organisations covered by this guidance to seek agreement to using efficiency savings to fund workforce reform as part of their pay remit in 2009. The deadline for making such requests was 30 May 2009. The former Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) have not requested agreement to using efficiency savings to fund their pay remits in 2009. None of the Agencies or NDPBs sponsored by either the former BERR or DIUS has requested agreement to use efficiency savings to fund their pay remits in 2009.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of *(a)* energy demand and *(b)* sustainable use of materials of the proposals contained in the Digital Britain White Paper; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of UK carbon dioxide emissions of implementation of the proposals contained in that report. [281896]

Mr. McFadden: Environmental impact issues are included in the Digital Britain impact assessments which were published with the final Report on 16 June and can be seen on:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/digitalbritain_impactassessment.pdf

New communications technologies have the potential to reduce energy demand and impact positively on UK carbon dioxide emissions. For example, next generation broadband services such as two-way video conferencing may lead to lower road congestion and pollution because they encourage greater use of tele-working which reduces the need to travel. This is because more people find it convenient to work from home or use tele-conferencing instead of physical meetings with their suppliers and customers. Evidence from Australia reveals that in 2006, over a third of SMEs introduced tele-working and that broadband was an influential factor in the decision.

Other potential benefits include a reduction in power consumption through a more efficient computing (e.g. cloud computing), enlarging the scope to do business online and providing options for monitoring the efficient use of transport fleets and home energy, among other things.

The Digital Britain action plan will support this by facilitating the rollout of new networks including shared networks and networks which use existing infrastructure. Laying down the necessary fibre network may increase carbon emissions and an increasing use of applications which require higher bandwidth (e.g. video conferencing) may lead to increased power consumption. The Government are seeking to minimise the energy demands and waste created by new technology and infrastructure by building in a sustainability element to the Digital Inclusion Champion's role, and by including sustainability factors in public ICT procurement strategies. We have also pledged to work closely with manufacturers to examine the environmental impact of the digital radio upgrade.

Digital Broadcasting: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate to Wales in the next five years in fulfilment of the universal service commitment outlined in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281622]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have allocated £200 million of direct public funding to delivering the broadband universal service commitment. We expect to be able to leverage as much again from private and public sector partners though a well constructed procurement process.

No decisions have yet been taken about spend in specific parts of the UK. The Digital Britain report sets out the priorities for allocation of the funds for meeting the Universal Service Commitment. The Universal Service Commitment core priorities are:

1. Coverage

Broadband coverage of at least 2 Mbps to virtually every household in the UK (in addition, mobile will have a role to play in providing broadband coverage at different speeds).

2. Provision

Those currently unable to receive a service will be given priority.

3. Technology

We should remain technology-neutral and look for the most cost effective means of delivering availability, while maximising wider network benefits (such as using next generation-compatible solutions where possible).

4. Competition

Service competition should, as far as possible, be available across the country.

The procurement design by the Network Design and Procurement Group will determine how these priorities are addressed in practice. We will ensure that the devolved administrations are able to advise the group about need in their nations.

Domestic Appliances: Safety

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what reports he has received of the recommendations in relation to the sale of blinds with looped cords made in the determination made by Sheriff Mackie on 29 May 2009 in respect of the fatal accident inquiry into the death of Muireann McLaughlin; and if he will make a statement. [281614]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* My Department has received both the Sheriff's determination and a summary of the fatal accident inquiry. Officials are carefully considering the recommendations made and how best to deal with them. I have no plans to make a statement.

English Language: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the English language training sector; and what steps his Department is taking to assist that sector. [282627]

Kevin Brennan: The Department funds provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and this is delivered through FE colleges, training providers and the voluntary sector.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) published a thematic review of ESOL in October 2008. The report stated that ESOL provision in colleges is satisfactory and that ACL providers had improved significantly. The report is available at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) maintains a register of colleges offering English language training in relation to their points based system. All private education providers need to be accredited by an Agency-approved accreditation body. Ofsted help to determine which accreditation bodies provide an appropriate test of the bona fides of an educational institution and the list of UKBA-approved accreditation bodies is available on the UKBA website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/sponsoringmigrants/eligibility/tierstudents

Evening Standard: Sales

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors have had discussions with (i) Lord Rothermere, (ii) Matthew Freud and (iii) Freud Communications, with particular reference to ownership of the London *Evening Standard*. [282270]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* Neither Ministers nor officials have had discussions with Lord Rothermere, Matthew Freud and Freud Communications in reference to the ownership of the *Evening Standard*.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what written and oral contacts *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors had with (i) Lord Rothermere, (ii) Matthew Freud and (iii) Freud Communications in connection with the sale of the London Evening Standard to Alexander Lebedev before the decision was taken on whether to issue an intervention notice under the Enterprise Act 2002. [282271]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* There have been no written or oral contacts by Ministers or officials with Lord Rothermere, Matthew Freud or Freud Communications regarding the sale of the *Evening Standard*.

Exports: Israel

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many end-user certificates for exports of arms to Israel have been issued in the last three years. [283331]

Ian Lucas: End-user certificates are submitted by the exporter as supporting documentation when applying for export licences, and are supplied by the end-user of the goods. The Government publish, in their Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls, detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including a summary of the items covered by these licences.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and Quarterly Reports, published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

As part of the Government's commitment to transparency and accountability the Export Control Organisation has also recently launched an online searchable database of export control licensing statistics in order to improve the usability of the data published. The database can be accessed at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox/sdb/SDBHOME

The latest date for which information is available is 31 December 2008. The officials will shortly be publishing the data for the quarter ending 31 March 2009.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time, UK-domiciled undergraduate students there are in each of the teaching and learning price bands used by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [282844]

Mr. Lammy: In 2007-08 the estimated number of UK domiciled full-time undergraduate students, including both those fundable and non-fundable by HEFCE in each of their price bands are as follows:

	Number
Group A	22,264
Group B	150,525
Group C	408,805
Group D	271,538

In addition there are 22,128 students meeting the criteria of the question in Initial Teacher Training which is not assigned to a price group. Figures are for England only.

Insolvency: Advisory Services

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the provision of paid advice on insolvency by persons who have not been recognised as insolvency practitioners by the Insolvency Service. [282157]

Ian Lucas: All those offering consumer credit or debt advice must secure a Consumer Credit Licence from the Office of Fair Trading. This will allow them to offer advice on all matters of debt, including whether insolvency is the best solution.

If an individual voluntary arrangement is suggested an authorised insolvency practitioner will act in relation to the arrangement. There are seven recognised professional bodies, as well as my noble Friend the Secretary of State, which authorise insolvency practitioners. Insolvency practitioners are required to provide details of their authorising body on their letter headed paper. If bankruptcy proceedings are recommended the Official Receiver will, in the first instance, deal with the case. Only the authorising bodies can deal with complaints against insolvency practitioners.

Loans: Interest Rates

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of introducing a maximum interest rate chargeable in respect of unsecured personal loans. [280897]

Kevin Brennan: The Government will be giving broad consideration to the issue of unsecured credit in the Consumer White Paper, which is to be published in early July. It would be inappropriate to pre-empt any announcements to be made in that White Paper.

Manufacturing Industries: Devon

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government is taking to support the manufacturing sector in South Devon. [282633]

Ian Lucas: The Government continue to help industry in south Devon, and in other parts of the south-west. We are supporting manufacturing with programmes such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). In 2008-09, MAS South West helped 1,410 SME manufacturing companies. Across the region these interventions have generated cost savings and increased business worth over £19 million; £4.6 million of which is in Devon. Also, over the last 12 months (July 2008 to June 2009), Business Link SW has provided advice and support to over 600 manufacturing businesses in the South Devon area.

The south-west regional development agency continues to deliver specific support to the industry in the south-west through its regional cluster and sector bodies, as well as through Business Link.

Commitments in the 2008 manufacturing strategy and more recent action to address cash flow, credit and investment needs are helping small and medium-sized businesses in the current downturn.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* each district in Cumbria and *(b)* the UK using tips as a means of ensuring their employees receive the national minimum wage; what estimate his Department has made of (i) the number of employees involved and (ii) the monetary value of such tips in the last 12 months; what steps his Department plans to take on the matter; and what assessment has been made of the effects of the practice on expenditure on benefits. [281337]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of businesses in *(a)* each Cumbrian district, and *(b)* in the UK, using tips as a means of ensuring their employees receive the national minimum wage as these data are not collected.

Using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings we have estimated that (i) the number of employees who could be receiving tips to make up wages to the national minimum wage is around 60,000 and (ii) the monetary value of such tips to be £82 million per year.

The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for benefit payments. DWP has not made an assessment of the effects of the practice on expenditure on benefits as to do so could be done only at disproportionate cost.

From 1 October 2009 we will be amending National Minimum Wage regulations so that tips can no longer be used to pay national minimum wage.

National Skills Academies

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to facilitate the establishment of the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills; and if he will make a statement. [282468]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Creative and Cultural Skills National Skills Academy was established in April 2008 to tackle technical skills shortages in the Creative Industries. Since its inception, this Government have invested £4.2 million in the establishment of this Academy.

I am aware that the Academy has also submitted a capital proposal to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Government remain committed to providing capital support to National Skills Academies through the LSC's Specialisation Fund which is separate to the more general FE Capital fund. We will make an announcement soon.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the provision of funding for the National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock has been delayed; and if he will make a statement. [282469]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]*: In December 2008, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) undertook a detailed review of its capital programmes, and reported in March this year that there were more projects than funding available. While the LSC undertook this review, it was necessary to put all capital project applications on hold.

An announcement was made on the 26 June about the future capital arrangements for the FE college sector. Government remain committed to providing capital support to NSAs through the LSC's Specialisation Fund which is separate to the more general FE Capital Fund. We will make an announcement soon.

National Vocational Qualifications: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of per candidate funding National Vocational Qualification training providers received in advance in each of the last five years. [281186]

Kevin Brennan: National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are delivered through a range of training providers funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This includes further education colleges and independent training providers.

The main route for delivering stand alone NVQ qualifications in the work place is through Train to Gain which was fully rolled out in 2006/07 academic year. From 2008/09 academic year, 75 per cent. of the cost of a Train to Gain course is paid monthly in arrears spread over the expected length of the programme, with 25 per cent. withheld and paid on achievement.

This approach is also used where an NVQ is delivered as part of an apprenticeship, with the exception that the 25 per cent. achievement payment for the NVQ is only paid on achievement of the whole apprenticeship framework rather than just the NVQ element.

Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of trade between the UK and Saudi Arabia in the last five years. [283313]

Ian Lucas: The data requested are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Saudi Arabia	*UK exports of services to Saudi Arabia*	*UK imports of goods from Saudi Arabia*	*UK imports of services from Saudi Arabia*
2004	1,611	2,246	1,158	688
2005	1,559	2,219	1,714	570
2006	1,644	2,701	1,232	670
2007	1,857	3,020	821	693
2008	2,189	—	672	—

Sources:
ONS monthly review of external trade statistics and UK Balance of Payments Pink Book

Geographical estimates of trade in services in 2008 are expected to be available at the end of July.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of trade between the UK and Lebanon in the last five years. [283314]

Ian Lucas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Lebanon are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Lebanon	*UK imports of goods from Lebanon*
2004	210	17
2005	212	20
2006	208	20
2007	224	42
2008	304	47

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Lebanon	*UK imports of services from Lebanon*
2006	57	19
2007	54	21

Phorm

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Phorm on the use of its targeted online advertising technology. [280893]

Mr. McFadden: I have not had any such discussions. My noble Friend, the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, met Kent Ertugrul, the chief Executive Officer of Phorm Inc. on 18 November 2008. This was an introductory meeting.

Prisoners

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those released from prison who *(a)* achieved and *(b)* did not achieve a degree whilst in prison re-offended within two years of their release in each year from 2000 to 2006. [282236]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The information requested is not collected centrally by this Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Mail: Rural Areas

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of service provided by Royal Mail to customers in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [282156]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm, the industry regulator, monitors Royal Mail's quality of service performance in all postcode areas on a quarterly basis. Postcomm also commissions an annual survey of residential and SME customers, which involves asking questions of customers in rural and deep rural areas about their use of mail services and how satisfied they are as senders and recipients of mail.

In the latest 2008 survey, all respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Royal Mail on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 representing extremely satisfied and 1 extremely dissatisfied).

The total sample gave Royal Mail a mean score of 8.02. A breakdown of the sample showed that deep rural customers gave Royal Mail a higher mean score of 8.47. More information can be found on Postcomm's website:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/about-the-mail-market/customer-needs-survey.html

Students: Radicalism

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in his Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on matters related to preventing violent extremism in universities. [282662]

Mr. Lammy: There is one official in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who works full-time on matters relating to preventing violent extremism in universities, two who work part-time, and other officials who provide advice and guidance on specific areas of the higher education sector.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people *(b)* under 18-year-olds, *(c)* under 16-year-olds and *(d)* under 12-year-olds (i) attended and (ii) were admitted via accident and emergency departments for excessive consumption of alcohol in each year since 1997-98. [282773]

Gillian Merron: The information for alcohol-related attendances at accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally. However, information on alcohol-related hospital admissions is collected centrally. The following table shows numbers of admissions rather than individuals.

Information on alcohol-related hospital admissions is only available for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08 and we have provided figures for all alcohol-related hospital admissions for those aged 16 and over.

Number of finished alcohol-related admissions of patients via accident and emergency (A&E)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total number of admissions via A&E	251,303	289,229	337,549	388,880	420,263	448,813
Under 12-years-old	281	282	243	226	213	181
12 to 15-years-old	3,968	4,521	4,524	4,864	4,753	4,441
16 to 17-years-old	4,679	5,300	6,077	7,[illegible]47	7,474	7,766

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

3. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

4. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

6. Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

7. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

8. Assignment of Episodes to Years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the graph in figure 15 of page 119 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007, how much and what proportion of funding has been spent under each heading in each year since 1997-98. [283251]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not routinely available.

The estimated total national health service spend on cancer care represented in the graph on page 119 of the Cancer Reform Strategy was an analysis commissioned specifically for inclusion in the Strategy. It was based on a wide range of data from 2005-06, and the sources of this data are quoted in the Strategy. An estimated NHS spend on cancer care under the same categories of that graph is not available for any other years, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the use of exceptional case requests in England for anti-nausea treatments used to support patients receiving chemotherapy. [283285]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no such assessment.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to increase the uptake of screening for cancer in Staffordshire. [283229]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to determine how to most effectively meet the needs of their local populations.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the national awareness-raising campaign for vascular checks to commence; [282873]

(2) what further work his Department is undertaking on the choice of delivery options and roll-out plans for its vascular checks programme; [282970]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2165W, on cardiovascular system: screening, whether his Department is monitoring the settings from which vascular checks are being commissioned in each primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [283023]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to raising awareness but will consider the exact timing in light of the progress of implementing NHS Health Checks so as not to raise expectations before they can be fully met.

The Department published "Putting prevention first—vascular checks: risk assessment and management—next steps guidance for primary care trusts" on vascular checks in November 2008. It states that:

> 'It is important that PCTs devise and use a model (of delivery) that is best suited to their population and that when doing so they consider tackling health inequalities that exist within their area'.

A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

To ensure that the NHS Health Check programme is accessible to all those eligible, and to help reduce health inequalities, it has been designed so that the basic risk assessment and management components are suitable to be undertaken in a variety of settings, for example pharmacies and community centres as well as general practitioner (GP) practices. This means that people who are not in touch regularly with formal health care, particularly GP services, will be encouraged to access the checks at convenient locations and times. In addition to the guidance which the Department has already issued to primary care trusts (PCTs), it has been working with PCTs, through the Learning Network hosted by NHS Improvement, to help ensure that the experience and learning of developing and implementing different delivery models for the checks is shared across the country. The evaluation will consider the contribution that different providers of NHS Health Checks make to the delivery of the programme.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to inform primary care trusts of the unit costs of delivering vascular checks in different settings. [282971]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check impact assessment, a copy of has been which placed in the Library, breaks down the costs of the check into two main areas: costs of the personnel who perform the assessments and costs of various testing procedures. This information could be used, with local data, to estimate the cost of providing the NHS Health Check in various settings and by different personnel.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has undertaken market research on the settings in which different categories of patients may wish to receive vascular checks. [282972]

Ann Keen: A qualitative research project was commissioned by the Central Office of Information on behalf of the Department in October 2008 to consider the motivations and barriers to taking up an invitation to a check among higher risk groups. The primary purpose of this research was to help inform the development of the communications materials to support the NHS Health Check programme.

General practice has a central role to play in delivering the NHS Health Check programme. This is because the patient record held by the general practitioners (GPs) will be the repository of all information generated by the NHS Heath Check and also GP surgeries have always been regarded as one of the principal settings for delivery of these health checks. However, some people prefer to access these types of services in different settings for reasons of convenience and so the check has designed so that it is suitable to be undertaken in a variety of settings, for example pharmacies and community centres as well as GP practices.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of his Department's guidelines for the treatment of myalgic encephalopathy compared to international best practice; [283105]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the revision of treatment guidelines for myalgic encephalopathy issued to trusts by his Department. [283106]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued guidelines for the treatment of myalgic encephalopathy. Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis were published in 2007 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. They would have responsibility for revising this guidance.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to publish its revised Citizen Engagement strategy. [280791]

Ann Keen: The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence published a Public Stakeholder Plan in November 2008, which is available on its website at:

www.chre.org.uk/public/

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what travel costs patient and service user groups may reclaim from the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence when attending meetings of the Council. [280854]

Ann Keen: The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) provides travel costs for Council members, all of whom are lay, to attend council meetings. CHRE does not provide travel costs to patient and service user groups attending its public council meetings as observers. When the council holds consultative meetings to which it invites members of the public and representatives of patient and service user groups, it reimburses the travel costs of those who attend if they are self financing or unemployed.

Dental Services: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children without access to NHS dental services in (i) Barnsley and (ii) Doncaster in each of the last five years. [282783]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess local need and demand for national health service dental services and commission the appropriate services.

All 10 strategic health authorities have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest. We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

"NHS dental service in England: An independent review led by Professor Jimmy Steele", published on 22 June recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

Dentistry: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of NHS dentistry provision in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire. [282487]

Ann Keen: The numbers of courses of treatments (CoTs) and units of dental activity (UDAs) performed by national health service dentists, in England, are available in table C6 of annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2008' report. Information is available for 2006-07 and quarterly since 2007-08.

Information on the number of patients seen in the most recent 24-month period is available in table D3 of annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 3, 31 December 2008' report. Information is provided at quarterly intervals from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008.

This report, published on 21 May 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

Information for the first three quarters of 2008-09 remain provisional as they are revised in each subsequent report to account for treatments reported too late for inclusion in the previous quarterly report. In the end of year report, published in the August following the end of the financial year, all quarterly activity data are revised for a final time.

Further information on CoTs and UDAs is contained in the above report.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08' report. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Workforce figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information in both reports is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by constituency. They are based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006.

All 10 SHAs have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest.

We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton, an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

The report of the Independent Review of Dentistry in England, 'NHS Dental Services in England', published on 22 June 2009, recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 113W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282327]

Phil Hope: The information is shown in the following table.

£

Non-departmental public bodies	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Alcohol Education Research Council	0	0	0
Appointments Commission	0	0	0
Care Quality Commission (With effect 1 September 2008)	n/a	n/a	0
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	0	0	0
General Social Care Council	0	0	0
Health Protection Agency	0	0	0
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	0	99.88	0
Human Tissue Authority	0	0	0
Health and Social Care Information Centre	1,592.00	100.00	339.00
Monitor	0	0	0
National Patient Safety Agency	0	0	302.71
NHS Blood and Transplant	0	0	0
NHS Business Services Agency	0	0	0
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	0	674.98	0
NHS Litigation Authority	0	0	0
NHS Professionals[1]	0	0	500.00
National Institute Health and Clinical Excellence	0	0	0
National Treatment Agency for Substance misuse	0	0	0
Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board	0	0	0

[1] NHS Professionals are unable to specify exact amounts without disproportionate work, but it is known to be less than £500.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281065]

Phil Hope: In the last five years the Department of Health has recorded one notifiable breach of information security.

There were no reportable breaches for either of the Department's two executive agencies—the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA).

The Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner (IC). Information on personal security data breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as required under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008.

The Department reported on the above personal data breach in its 2007-08 annual resource account, which can be found at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280559]

Phil Hope: The official responsible for the energy efficiency of the Department's estate is the Department's permanent secretary, Sir Hugh Taylor.

Departmental Legislation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which provisions of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation for which his Department is responsible in each of the last 10 years have yet to be brought into force. [282192]

Phil Hope: The request for information on secondary legislation could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Listed in the following table are Acts of Parliament introduced by the Department since 1999, which include some sections and schedules not yet brought into force:

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1999	*Not yet in force*
Health Act 1999 (c.8)	Section 61
Care Standards Act 2000 (c. 14)	Section 64(1)(a) and (3)-(5) Schedule 4 paragraphs 12, 14(10)(b), (22) and (29) Schedule 5 paragraphs 1 and 2
Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc) Act 2003 (c.5)	Section 14
Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43)	Section 107 Section 116(3) Schedule 14 part 6
Health Act 2006 (c.28)	Section 36(2)
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (c.28)	Section 233 (partially) Schedule 6
Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c. 14)	Section 2(2)(a) (partially)
	Section 12(6)

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1999	*Not yet in force*
	Sections 13-15
	Section 17(2)
	Sections 23 and 24
	Section26(2)
	Section 28(4)(b), (5)-(7)
	Section 34(2)-(4)
	Section 41
	Sections 42 and 43
	Section 44 (partially)
	Section 45
	Section 49
	Section 66 (partially)
	Section 72 (partially)
	Section 95 (partially)
	Sections 98-110
	Sections 111 and 112(partially)
	Sections 119-122
	Section 123(1) and (2)
	Sections 124-126
	Section 127 (partially)
	Section 128
	Section 130
	Sections 139-141
	Sections 144-146
	Section 148
	Section 160 (partially)
	Schedule 4, paragraph 5 (partially)
	Schedule 5 paragraphs 2-6; 10-12; 14(b)(ii) and (d), 15,169a), 18, 19, 20(2)-(4),21.24(a), 26-28 and 31
	Schedule 6
	Schedule 7
	Schedule 8, paragraph 10
	Schedule 9
	Schedule 10, paragraphs 2(b),4(b),5(b), 6(a),7,9,13(b), 14, 15, 18 ,22 ,26 and 27
	Schedule 11
	Schedule 14 ,paragraphs 1 and 8
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008	Sections 1-7
	Sections 9-13
	Section 14(2) and (4)
	Section 15(1),(2) and (4)
	Sections 16-18
	Section 20
	Sections 22 and 23
	Section 24 and 25 (partially)
	Sections 26-29
	Sections 31 and 32
	Sections 54 and 55
	Section 56 (partially)
	Section 57(3) and (4)
	Sections 59 and 60
	Schedules 1-3 and 5
	Schedule 6, paragraphs 37 and 38
	Schedule 7 paragraphs 1-14; 15(a) and (b),16 -25
	Schedule 8 (partially)

Departmental Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how staff pay levels are agreed with Solace Enterprises for the NHS Flexible Resourcing Service; and how much staff at each level who are recruited through the service are paid per hour. [282775]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally. This is a matter for NHS Employers.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many additional doctors have been recruited since 2004 to enable compliance with the requirements of the European Working Time Directive; and how many he estimates will be so required from August 2009. [283212]

Ann Keen: The number of additional doctors needed to comply with European working time directive (EWTD) is not collected centrally. It is for trusts to determine how many doctors they require to deliver services within an EWTD compliant working environment.

Since 2004 the number of doctors working in the national health service has increased by 16,119 (+13.8 per cent.). This figure excludes general practitioner retainers.

Domestic Accidents: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital as a result of an accident in the home in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency and *(d)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [282902]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Information on admissions to hospital for accidental injury is available, but the number of admissions for accidents in the home cannot be reliably identified.

Health Professions: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consult members of the public on the means by which health professional regulators are held to account to *(a)* the public and *(b)* Parliament might be achieved; and if he will make a statement. [280696]

Ann Keen: Extensive public consultation has already taken place through two reviews of professional regulation in 2006: 'Good doctors, safer patients' and 'The regulation of the non-medical health care professions'. Following these reviews the White Paper, 'Trust Assurance and

Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' was published in 2007, setting out a substantial programme of reform to the system of health care professional regulation.

As part of this programme of work a working group, chaired by Niall Dickson, produced a number of recommendations about ways to enhance public confidence in the health care regulators.

In 2008 and 2009 extensive reforms to the governance of the health care regulatory bodies was taken forward to provide for independently appointed councils with parity between lay and registrant members. These reforms also improved arrangements for accountability to Parliament. The health professions regulators are now required to produce an annual report and a strategic plan which must be laid before Parliament.

The Minister of State for Health and Lord Darzi have also written to the Leaders of the House of Commons and House of Lords to recommend that Parliament establish a committee on professional regulation.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 473W, on heart diseases: health services, how many finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease in those aged 16 years and older there were in each hospital trust in 2007-08. [282202]

Ann Keen: A table which shows how many finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease for those aged 16 and over, by hospital provider, in 2007-08, has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Beds: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available to mental health patients in the South Essex Strategic Health Authority in each of the last five years. [282811]

Phil Hope: Data are not collected in the format requested. Data are available for the South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and are shown in the following table.

Number of beds available to mental health patients in the South Essex area in each of the last five years[1]

South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	*Number*
2003-04	478
2004-05	512
2005-06	516
2006-07	497
2007-08	511

[1] Average daily number of available beds in wards open overnight, mental illness sector.

Source:

Department of Health form KH03

Hyperactivity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the provision of services to adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; [283293]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people requiring treatment for adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); and what recent research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the (i) efficacy and (ii) cost-effectiveness of treatments for ADHD delivered by the NHS. [283295]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published clinical guidance in September 2008 ("Clinical Guideline 72") on the diagnosis and management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, young people and adults. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are expected to follow this guidance, although local service provision is a matter for individual PCTs.

No departmental estimate has been made of the incidence of adult ADHD. NICE evaluated the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of ADHD treatments in preparing "Clinical Guideline 72".

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of a strategy to support adults with adult deficit hyperactivity disorder akin to that for adults with autism. [283296]

Phil Hope: Guidance to help health care professionals in England to commission, together with other relevant agencies, an effective service for the diagnosis and management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adults (ADHD) was issued in September 2008 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

The Department does not feel that the delivery of support for adults with deficit hyperactivity would be best met by developing a separate strategy and a copy of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance has been placed in the Library.

Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England; and if he will make a statement; [283107]

(2) what remuneration was provided to members of the review team for the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England. [283113]

Ann Keen: The review cost a total of £435,000. This figure remains an estimate as some invoices are still to be finalised.

Remuneration for members of the review team was in the form of payments, where requested, to their employing organisations for their services and support costs. Payments to the employing organisations totalled £200,000.

The following table showing the break down of the costs of the review includes the total payments to review members' employers. A document containing the information on the review costs has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Primarycare/Dental/DH_094048

Estimated costs of the independent review of national health service dental services in England

	Item	*Total (£000)*
February 2009	Qualitative research	54
February-June 2009	Engagement events	139
December 2008-June 2009	Review team travel and subsistence	22
December 2008-June 2009	Payment to employers for services of review team members and support costs	200
June 2009	Publication and launch costs	20
Total		435

Note:
This is an estimate of the additional costs to the Department in supporting the review, incorporating estimates for some bills, which are yet to be finalised. Final costs for the review will be made available once these are complete.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of running pilot schemes relating to recommendations of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England. [283109]

Ann Keen: It is too early to estimate the extra costs of piloting the review recommendations. Estimating costs will be part of the process of designing the pilots, which is now in development.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his timetable is for pilot schemes relating to recommendations of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England. [283110]

Ann Keen: Piloting of the recommendations made by Professor Jimmy Steele, chair of the independent review of national health service dental services in England, will begin with selected new contracts that are currently being set up with the support of the dental access programme, in autumn of this year. Pilots involving existing contract holders on a voluntary basis will begin next year. The Department expects to run the pilots for at least 12 to 18 months, before evaluating the results and considering further roll out.

"NHS dental Services in England: An independent review led by Professor Jimmy Steele" has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

Intensive Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many episodes of intensive care treatment were provided by the NHS in 2008. [282771]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of episodes of intensive care treatment in England is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lung Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital trusts have fully implemented his Department's recommendations on the proportion of lung cancer patients who should receive active treatment; and if he will make a statement. [282415]

Ann Keen: The national health service has fully implemented guidance on Improving Outcomes in Lung Cancer, which was published by the Department in 1998.

As I advised the hon. Member in my written reply of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 226W, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidelines, in 2005, on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer patients.

Lymphoedema: Breast Cancer

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients were treated for lymphoedema in each year since 2004; how many of those patients received treatment after being diagnosed and treated for breast cancer; what plans the NHS has to change methods of collection of data on lymphoedema treatment; and if he will make a statement. [282614]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

We currently have no plans to change the methods of data collection on lymphoedema treatment.

NHS Trusts: Mental Health

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* facilities his Department has provided to NHS trusts for the treatment of patients with bipolar disorder in the last 12 months; [282905]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 10 years. [282906]

Phil Hope: Decisions about the funding and provision of local services, including those for bi-polar disorder are for local national health service trusts.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 (£3.844 billion in 2001-02).

Information on the number of people diagnosed with bi-polar disorder in England is not collected centrally.

The following table shows counts of finished consultant episodes for the period 1998-99 to 2007-08 for selected strategic health authorities in the north east and England as a whole for national health service hospitals and national health service commissioned activity in the independent sector where the primary diagnosis was bipolar affective disorder.

Counts of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where primary diagnosis was bipolar affective disorder (ICD-10 Code= F31): Activity in English national health service hospitals and English national health service commissioned activity in the independent sector. Data years 1998-99 to 2007-08

	Selected strategic health authorities	*England*
1998-99[1]	865	12,767
1999-2000[1]	675	12,980
2000-01[1]	652	12,996
2001-02[1]	842	13,727
2002-03[1]	617	14,422
2003-04[1]	844	13,839
2004-05[1]	765	14,179
2005-06[1]	658	12,993
2006-07[2]	860	12,871
2007-08[2]	324	12,716

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Selected strategic health authorities (SHAs)

[1] Counts for SHAs include patients whose SHA of residence was Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA and County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA for each year between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

[2] Counts for SHAs include patients whose SHA of residence was North East Strategic HA for each year between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Primary care trust (PCT)/SHA data quality

PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English national health service. The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in national health service practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care

NHS: Death Rates

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 628W, on NHS: death rates, what the names are of the trusts concerned in each of the 85 alerts. [282939]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission, which took over from the Healthcare Commission on 1 April 2009, has informed us that they intend to publish information on alerts, including the names of the trusts involved, once the case is closed. A case is closed once the alert has been reviewed and concluded upon and any necessary action plan is in place. 75 out of the 85 alerts are closed and the Care Quality Commission will publish this information within the next few weeks.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 494, on NHS debts, what the amount is of each loan provided by his Department to NHS trusts; what interest rate is payable on each; and what the expected redemption date is of each. [283204]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department makes loans for capital investment and for working capital to national health service trusts. Details of originating loan amount, associated interest rate and expected redemption date for each outstanding loans are given in the following table.

Loan value, interest rate and expected redemption date on current loans to NHS trusts from the Department of Health

NHS trust name	*Original loan value (£000)*	*National loan fund rate[1] (percentage)*	*Expected full settlement date[2]*
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,000	4.85	15 March 2018
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	3,400	4.86	15 September 2015
Rob Jones and a Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	500	4.85	15 September 2017
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	700	4.88	15 March 2015
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	7,300	4.19	15 March 2018
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	6,141	4.19	15 March 2018
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust	13,500	5.40	15 March 2018
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust	13,500	5.40	15 March 2018
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	7,000	4.88	15 September 2013
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,456	4.88	15 September 2013
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	8,000	4.83	15 September 2018
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,400	2.82	15 March 2014
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,500	3.48	15 March 2019
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,551	3.48	15 March 2019
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	12,300	3.65	15 March 2029
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	800	2.69	15 March 2019

Loan value, interest rate and expected redemption date on current loans to NHS trusts from the Department of Health

NHS trust name	*Original loan value (£000)*	*National loan fund rate¹ (percentage)*	*Expected full settlement date²*
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	7,900	2.60	15 March 2014
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	2,000	2.66	15 March 2014
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust	400	5.10	15 March 2022
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS Trust	765	5.20	15 March 2012
St George Healthcare NHS Trust	250	5.20	15 March 2012
Western Sussex NHS Trust	1,063	5.15	15 March 2015
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust	490	4.34	15 March 2012
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS Trust	764	3.98	15 March 2012
St George Healthcare NHS Trust	4,550	3.98	15 March 2012
Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust	1,782	3.97	15 March 2011
Western Sussex NHS Trust	1,063	4.37	15 March 2015
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	4,000	4.01	15 March 2013
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	2,907	3.16	15 March 2011
Western Area NHS Trust	800	1.49	15 March 2012
East Cheshire NHS Trust	7,000	5.50	15 March 2010
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1,700	5.50	15 March 2010
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	12,000	5.20	15 March 2022
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	6,900	5.50	15 March 2010
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS Trust	7,040	5.45	15 March 2012
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	10,806	5.45	15 March 2012
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	18,500	5.35	15 March 2015
Rob Jones and a Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	3,400	5.50	15 March 2010
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	3,270	5.50	15 March 2010
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	6,800	5.45	15 March 2012
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000	5.45	15 March 2012
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	12,200	5.50	15 March 2010
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	6,300	5.50	15 March 2010
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	23,400	5.35	15 March 2014
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1,950	5.50	15 March 2010
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	23,400	5.45	15 March 2012
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	13,650	5.45	15 March 2012
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	11,200	5.45	15 March 2012
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	7,000	5.45	15 March 2012
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	15,000	5.45	15 March 2012
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	26,294	5.50	15 March 2010
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000	5.50	15 March 2010

Loan value, interest rate and expected redemption date on current loans to NHS trusts from the Department of Health

NHS trust name	*Original loan value (£000)*	*National loan fund rate¹ (percentage)*	*Expected full settlement date²*
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	34,000	5.45	15 March 2012
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	23,830	5.45	15 March 2012
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	17,500	5.45	15 March 2011
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,000	5.50	15 March 2010
Western Sussex NHS Trust	17,005	5.35	15 March 2015
Western Sussex NHS Trust	23,000	5.20	15 March 2021
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	14,700	5.40	15 March 2013
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	56,000	4.95	15 March 2032
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	4,000	5.45	15 March 2011
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	29,322	5.40	15 March 2013
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000	5.45	15 March 2011
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	5,000	5.45	15 March 2011
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	19,986	5.40	15 March 2013
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	38,000	5.05	15 March 2027
North Bristol NHS Trust	52,000	5.05	15 March 2027
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	5,000	5.45	15 March 2012
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	3,000	4.19	15 March 2018
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	31,400	5.29	15 March 2011
University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	16,000	5.31	15 March 2013
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	5,500	5.31	15 March 2013
Weston Area Health Authority	14,300	5.32	15 March 2015
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	46,125	5.32	15 March 2015
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	17,000	5.31	15 March 2013
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	5,000	4.69	15 September 2013
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,000	0.82	15 September 2009
East Cheshire NHS Trust	2,533	2.39	15 March 2017

[1] Fixed for term
[2] Redemption date

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what central agreements the NHS has entered into for the supply of temporary workers to NHS organisations; what rates of pay have been set through such central agreements; and how many temporary staff have been employed through them. [282772]

Ann Keen: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) has negotiated the following national framework agreements on behalf of the national health service:

Medical Locums;

Nursing;

Allied Health Professionals and Health Science Service staff;

Professional and Administrative Services; and

Ancillary

All agreements for temporary staffing negotiated by NHS PASA are subject to national conditions and terms of contract, which are designed to protect the NHS. All participating national framework suppliers are required to commit to and sign up to the national terms negotiated.

NHS PASA framework agreements are not mandated for use within the NHS and trusts at their own discretion can elect to establish their own local contractual arrangements for the supply of temporary staff.

Due to the NHS being the predominant purchaser of clinical temporary staff, these central agreements are not able to set the rates of pay for such temporary staff. However, Framework Agencies have undergone a public procurement process that encourages ensures that the hourly pay rates awarded are:

cost effective and best value for money for the NHS;

competitive within the marketplace; and that they are

sustainable, in terms of Framework Agency resilience during challenging economic climates and attractiveness to the temporary staff employed.

There is therefore a range of hourly pay rates available through these central agreements and it is the choice of the NHS body to determine which Framework Agency or other temporary staff provider used to meet their local requirements. These rates do not contravene any Minimum Wage Act or Equal Pay Act legislative compliance.

Information on the number of staff supplied through the framework agreements is not collected centrally but the number of hours supplied to the NHS through the frameworks over a 12 month period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 (data provided is an extrapolation of data provided from 1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008) is in the following table.

	Number
Medical locums	2,696,341
Nursing	6,087,209
Allied Health Professionals	1,999,240
Health Science Service Staff	1,013,188
Professional and Administrative Services	15,633,410
Ancillary	1,258,342

NHS PASA do not collect data from non-framework agencies, so the data do not provide coverage of NHS trusts electing not to use their framework agreements or local procurement arrangements.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS Employers entered into an agreement with Solace Enterprises to provide the NHS Flexible Resourcing Service; how much has been spent by each NHS organisation on interim staff employed through the service; and how many interim staff have been employed by each NHS organisation through the service. [282776]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect these data centrally. This is a matter for NHS Employers.

NHS: Reserve Forces

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support the NHS provides to staff who wish to volunteer for the Reserve Forces; and what guidance his Department provides to the NHS on the matter. [283079]

Ann Keen: "The Healthy Workplaces Handbook" published by NHS Employers in 2007 includes advice for employers and employees on issues that should be considered in respect of staff who wish to undertake voluntary activities that may impact on their national health service work. A copy of the relevant section has been placed in the Library. In 2004, the Department published "Improving Working Lives: The Value of supporting staff who volunteer" which was designed to persuade NHS employers to encourage volunteering by their staff and includes a section on the volunteer reserve forces. A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of central targets which the NHS has to meet. [282774]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009-10" set no new national targets. On 30 June 2009, my noble Friend (Lord Darzi) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State published "High Quality Care for All: Our journey so far", which confirmed our intention to minimise the burden on frontline staff by reducing unnecessary data collection and removing obsolete targets and commitments.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's target for the number of school nurses is; what his most recent assessment is of progress in meeting that target; and if he will make a statement. [282382]

Ann Keen: The Public Health White Paper, "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier", published in November 2004, included the commitment to provide new funding so that by 2010 every primary care trust, working with children's trusts and local authorities, will be resourced to have at least one full-time, year-round, qualified school nurse working with each cluster or group of primary schools and the related secondary school, taking account of health needs and school populations.

There are around 3,000 state secondary schools in England. The 2008 NHS Workforce Census showed there were 3,643 qualified nurses in school nursing areas, an increase of 51 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,447 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 591 or 69 per cent. since 2004.

Parliamentary Bulletins

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amendments *(a)* he has and *(b)* officials in his Department have proposed to draft parliamentary bulletins to be issued by the (i) agencies and (ii) non-Ministerial department overseen by his Department in the last 12 months. [280992]

Phil Hope: No changes have been requested by departmental Ministers to draft parliamentary bulletins to be issued by its agencies and arms length bodies. Departmental officials proposed one amendment to a draft bulletin from the Appointments Commission: an amendment was requested to the first edition of Westminster (issue 1 Winter 08/09), and a reference to chairs' remuneration was removed from the bulletin prior to publication.

The Food Standards Agency, a non-ministerial Government Department, produces regular parliamentary bulletins. The Secretary of State, Ministers and departmental officials have on occasion proposed minor amendments but no records are kept of such requests.

Primary Care Trusts: Aiming High

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to involve parents in the *(a)* planning and *(b)* delivery of Aiming High commissioning by primary care trusts; [283059]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that funding allocated to primary care trusts for Aiming High short breaks is spent on short break services. [283060]

Phil Hope: We are putting in place a number of measures to encourage primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities (LA) to involve parents in the planning and delivery of services for disabled children. This includes £500,000 in 2008-09, rising to £1.5 million in 2009-10, available to LAs for the support for parent forums. Parent forums give an opportunity to parents of disabled children to express their views on the services they receive.

We have also introduced an indicator to measure parental satisfaction with services for disabled children. This will reflect results for each PCT and LA against all five of the Aiming High for Disabled Children core offer standards.

In "Healthy lives, brighter futures—the strategy for children and young people's health" a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, we confirmed £340 million NHS funding over three years for services for disabled children, including short breaks. The funding is in included in PCT baselines. The 2009-10 NHS Operating Framework challenges PCTs to review their service offer in line with "Healthy lives, brighter futures" (published February 2009) and reflect any amendments in their Operational Plans. Following publication of "Healthy lives, brighter futures" we have mandated a local statement by PCTs setting out their actions on services for disabled children, either alone or in partnership with the local strategic partnership, alongside their performance against the full set of vital signs in 2008-09.

Primary Care Trusts: North West

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the tariff of *(a)* NHS East Lancashire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* other primary care trusts in the North West needed to pay for hospital services in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [282520]

Ann Keen: The Department has estimated the change in hospital national tariff income and the resulting change in primary care trust (PCT) expenditure between 2008-09 and 2009-10 that is due to changes to the tariff in 2009-10. This is shown in the following table for the East Lancashire Teaching PCT and other PCTs in the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area.

As the analysis uses historical activity data from 2006-07 and 2007-08, national assumptions which may vary locally, and historical estimates of PCT commissioning patterns, it can only be an estimate of the changes to PCT expenditure in 2009-10 for services covered by the national tariff.

Impact analysis of change in expenditure due to national tariff changes in 2009-10 for PCTs in the North West SHA area

PCT	*Estimated change in expenditure in 2009-10 (£ million)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	6.2
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1.0
Blackpool PCT	-0.9
Bolton PCT	3.8
Bury PCT	2.7
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	-0.8
Central Lancashire PCT	-2.3
Cumbria Teaching PCT	-1.7
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	2.6
Halton and St. Helens PCT	0.9
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	3.3
Knowsley PCT	1.1
Liverpool PCT	6.3
Manchester PCT	-2.1
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	-2.4
Oldham PCT	3.8
Salford PCT	3.6
Sefton PCT	4.2
Stockport PCT	-1.0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	2.6
Trafford PCT	-0.5
Warrington PCT	0.8
Western Cheshire PCX	-0.8
Wirral PCT	-4.6

Notes:

1. Figures are in 2008-09 prices.
2. A positive figure represents an increase in expenditure. A negative figure represents a decrease in expenditure.
3. Figures include the effect of the introduction of the new market forces factor.
4. Based on historical activity from 2007-08 (in-patients and day cases) and 2006-07 (out-patients).
5. Based on scope of 2009-10 tariff on a like-for-like activity basis.
6. Some activity data has been removed from the analysis due to issues with data quality.
7. Assumes no change in income for accident and emergency between 2008-09 and 2009-10.
8. Uses national assumptions, in particular on the effect of non-mandatory out-patient procedures.
9. 2009-10 income does not include top-ups applied to long stay—excess bed days.
10. Costs for unbundled outpatients diagnostic imaging have been added into 2009-10 figures by provider.
11. Change in national health service provider income mapped to PCTs using a purchaser provider matrix based on 2007-08 admitted patient care tariff applied to 2005-06 converted hospital episode statistics (HES).

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 50 of his Department's report, Vascular checks: risk assessment and management, when he expects *(a)* to publish guidance to primary care trusts on health inequalities and *(b)* the test bed sites in Spearhead primary care trusts to become operational. [280412]

Ann Keen: Since the publication of the report referred to by the hon. Member the Department has published two guidance documents for primary care trusts on the implementation of the NHS Health Check Programme. 'Next Steps' Guidance for Primary Care Trusts was published in November 2008. The NHS Health Check: Vascular Risk Assessment and Management Best Practice Guidance was published in April 2009. Both guidance documents contain material relevant to health inequalities and copies have already been placed in the Library. Next Steps outlines how the Health Checks Programme (at that stage still referred to as Vascular Checks) fits the Department's wider aims on tackling health inequalities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 32 of his Department's report, Vascular checks: risk assessment and management, when he expects his Department's call and recall system to become operational. [280413]

Ann Keen: We are currently working on the development of a call and recall system with a view to having it in place during 2012-13.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 27 of his Department's report, Vascular checks: risk assessment and management, what guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on providing training in order that staff can most effectively convey an understanding of the risks revealed by the NHS health check. [280414]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check: Vascular Risk Assessment and Management Best Practice Guidance, published in April 2009, addresses workforce and training issues. A copy has already been placed in the Library. In addition, we have made training available, at no cost to primary care trusts (PCTs), to support the delivery of the programme. This training includes how to communicate a person's risk of vascular disease in a way that is understandable. In addition, PCTs are developing their own materials to support those conducting the risk assessment element of the NHS Health Check and help explain to people what their risk score means. We are sharing examples of these approaches through the Learning Network.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for deciding that 40 years will be the lower age limit for the NHS health check. [280416]

Ann Keen: To support the development of the NHS Health Check, the Department undertook modelling work to better understand the likely cost and clinical effectiveness of the programme. Both the technical consultation on the modelling and the impact assessment have been placed in the Library. This work identified that a national five-year call and recall programme for those aged between 40 and 74 was both clinically and cost effective.

We understand that within some primary care trusts (PCTs), calling people into the programme earlier from particular communities may have additional benefits, for example, where PCTs have significant South Asian communities. This scenario was not tested through the modelling. However, PCTs can decide to extend the programme if they wish, where they anticipate that additional benefits will accrue.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost of providing an IT support system for the NHS health check. [280417]

Ann Keen: Work is in hand to define the information technology requirements to support the delivery of the NHS Health Checks programme. Costs will depend on which option is chosen to deliver it.

Smoking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consult the public on their views on exemptions to the prohibition in smoking in public places for pubs and clubs; and if he will make a statement. [283117]

Gillian Merron: Before the introduction of the smoke free law in England a commitment was given to complete a review after three years. The review will be carried out in 2010.

Social Services: Applications

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for health and social care support services were refused following a positive assessment of need by a specialist in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point in each of the last three years. [282815]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected.

Standing Commission on Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the Standing Commission on Carers has met; and if he will publish the minutes of each meeting. [283265]

Phil Hope: The Standing Commission on Carers has met 11 times since its establishment in September 2007. The dates were:

2007

12 December

2008

11 January

23 January

20 February

28 April

2 July

16 December

2009

25 February

1 April

28 April

23 June

The Standing Commission on Carers will place details of the proceedings of these meetings on its website by 31 July:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/SCOC/index.htm

Appointments are now being made to the Standing Commission on Carers in accordance with guidance from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Details of the next phase of the Commission's work will also be placed on the Commission's website.

Thrombosis: Hospitals

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-4W, on death certificates, what estimate he has made of the proportion of cases of fatal thrombosis which have been acquired during a hospital stay; and if he will make a statement. [281702]

Ann Keen: The information is not currently available. We are working with the Office for National Statistics on this issue.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 2 July 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Manufacturing Industries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new apprenticeship places in the manufacturing sector have been created in the last 12 months. [272484]

Kevin Brennan: There were 43,100 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08 in the 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies' Sector Subject Area.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

The Government are also committed to using their public procurement programme—worth around £175 billion a year—to increase skills training and apprenticeship opportunities. In April, the Office of Government Commerce published guidance on how public sector bodies can include skills and apprenticeship considerations in their procurements.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1014W, on Learning and Skills Council, if he will place in the Library a copy of each set of minutes of the Learning and Skills Council's National Council meetings which his Department holds. [264924]

Mr. Simon: The LSC publishes a summary of its Council minutes on its website. These can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk

However, I have asked the acting chief executive of the LSC to review the full minutes of recent National Council meetings and to assess whether it is appropriate to publish the full minutes or more information from them, and to write to the hon. Member with the outcome of that assessment.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were employed by each non-departmental public body that receives funding from his Department in the last three years for which figures are available. [276159]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed in June 2007, following the machinery of government changes. As a result we are only able to provide information from 2007-08. The staffing figures (full-time equivalents—FTEs) for the NDPBs which receive funding from the Department are as follows:

	Full-time equivalents	
	As at 31 March	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Copyright Tribunal	[1]1	2
Council for Science and Technology	4	4
Design Council	58	55
HEFCE	264	264
Investors in People UK	40	44
LSC[2]	3,451	3,229
Office for Fair Access	4	3
Quality Improvement Agency	9	n/a
Research Councils	7,691	7,218
Sector Skills Development Agency	136	n/a
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP)	1	5
Student Loans Company	1,320	1,480
Technology Strategy Board	75	88
UK CES	[3]1.1	[4]99.3

n/a = not applicable—ceased to exist from 2008-09

[1] Staff are employed by the Intellectual Property Office and did not have a full-time commitment to the Copyright Tribunal, as they undertook other duties as well.

[2] These figures represent the average FTE across the year, and include approximately 900 staff in 2007-08 and 800 staff in 2008-09 who are not funded from the administration budget.

[3] This figure comprises a full-time chief executive and a part time Chair.

[4] The total of full-time equivalents includes 10 part-time staff, hence the partial figure of 99.3.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of candidates who have registered for Train to Gain courses and are yet to start their course. [273203]

Kevin Brennan: Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service providing advice, support and funding to employers in England, of all sizes and in all sectors. It gives employers better access to a wider range of opportunities for improving the skills of their employees, and the productivity of their business.

Train to Gain learner numbers are recorded only once the learner has registered at the start of their course. Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has helped 971,000 employees to begin learning programmes (up to 31 January 2009).

Prior to registration, information about employers and learners with a potential interest in Train to Gain is held by providers locally and used to inform engagement activity. Before April of this year that information was not recorded centrally; however, from 1 April both Train to Gain and Business Link brokers were brought together in a new service under the Business Link brand. Information about employers and their employees who use this new service will be collected and used to track progress.

Train to Gain Programme: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people from *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* Peterborough constituency who have registered for a Train to Gain course but have not yet commenced their training. [281717]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) delivers the Train to Gain programme on behalf of the Department. It counts the number of learners who register for Train to Gain at the point where they formally start on programmes. However, there is no formal registration process before a learner starts and therefore no central mechanism is in place to measure the number of people registering an interest.

The LSC is working closely with providers to support ongoing new starts for the remainder of the 2008/09 academic year where providers are within their maximum contract value. Letters have now been issued by the LSC to providers setting out their maximum contract values for 2009/10 academic year.

Vocational Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the financial contribution made to employee training by employers in each of the last five years. [273204]

Kevin Brennan: Estimates are drawn from employers contacted following the biennial National Employers Skills Survey (NESS) managed by the Learning and Skills Council. A follow-up survey to measure training expenditure has been conducted among employers since 2005 in addition to the NESS.

The total cost of training to employers in the 12 months prior to NESS07 is estimated to have been £38.6 billion including the labour costs of those receiving training, the labour costs of those delivering and managing training and course fees to external providers. The estimate for the 12 months prior to NESS05 was £33.3 billion. This increase is equivalent to £3.5 billion (10 per cent.) when inflation is taken into account. The 2009 survey is currently in field and will be available in spring 2010.

The NESS 2007 report explained why reliable information could not be produced from the surveys carried out in 2004 and 2003.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths there have been from each type of cancer as recorded by the ICD-10 classification in each year since 1997. [283288]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, [illegible]e 2009:

As National Statistician, I have [illegible] asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there have been from each type of cancer as recorded by the ICD-10 classification in each year since 1997. (283288)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death in England and Wales, for the period 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available), for all cancers combined, and for selected cancers. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) has been used to code mortality data since 2001, therefore figures provided for 1997 to 2000 have been extracted using International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision codes (ICD-9), where equivalent codes exist. A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

A more detailed breakdown of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales by all ICD codes is published annually by the Office for National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available in the House of Commons library, and can be accessed on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

The latest volume is for deaths registered in 2007, and figures for deaths where cancer was the underlying cause can be found on pages 24 to 47 of this volume.

Table 1: Number of deaths where cancer (malignant neoplasm) was the underlying cause of death,[1] all cancers and specific cancers, persons, England and Wales,[2] 1997 to 2008[3,4]

												Deaths (persons)
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2097*	*2008*
All cancers	135,771	136,289	133,749	132,421	136.234	137,051	136,030	134,873	134,894	135,635	136,804	137,827
Lip, oral cavity and pharynx	1,692	1,691	1,672	1,633	1,694	1,703	1,599	1,720	1,709	1,699	1,814	1,815
Oesophagus	5,868	5,934	6,031	6,057	6,137	6,332	6,424	6,299	6,466	6,495	6,424	6,609
Stomach	6,630	6,440	6.133	5,745	5,654	5,588	5.290	5,088	4,930	4,562	4,587	4,546
Small intestine	184	259	245	270	259	266	280	291	269	283	326	342
Colon	10,451	10,165	9,680	9.550	9.466	9,505	9,168	9,123	9,070	8,954	8,854	8,958
Rectosigmoid Junction, rectum, anus and anal cancer	4,775	4,815	4,684	4,680	4,697	4,784	4,919	5,040	5,045	5.068	5,176	5,317
Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	1,985	1,920	1,946	2,084	2,055	2,176	2,239	2,332	2,470	2,664	2,748	2,990

Table 1: Number of deaths where cancer (malignant neoplasm) was the underlying cause of death,[1] all cancers and specific cancers, persons, England and Wales,[2] 1997 to 2008[3,4]

												Deaths (persons)
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2097*	*2008*
Gallbladder and biliary tract	590	550	530	526	527	541	526	526	530	551	580	559
Pancreas	5,789	5,804	5,926	6,094	6,027	6,153	6,241	6,302	6,488	6,584	6,845	6,929
Larynx	789	739	737	707	754	741	716	673	661	676	657	715
Trachea, bronchus and lung	30,014	30,197	29,406	26,941	28,850	28,888	28.749	28,320	28,691	29,332	29,660	30,324
Skin	1,377	1,468	1,474	1.528	1,475	1,476	1,585	1,598	1,619	1,649	1,825	1,847
Other malignant neoplasms of skin	357	397	370	339	402	445	451	475	449	460	488	417
Mesothelioma	—	—	—	—	1,587	1,619	1,626	1,874	1,745	1,809	1.858	1,960
Kaposi's sarcoma	—	—	—	—	5	3	9	9	9	7	4	8
Breast	12,064	11,840	11,613	11,451	11,654	11.573	11,286	11,024	11,076	11,011	10,727	10.778
Cervix uteri	1,222	1,155	1.106	1,102	1,046	1,003	953	951	917	831	820	830
Other and unspecified parts of uterus	1,292	1,290	1,233	1,323	1,400	1,362	1,397	1,458	1.464	1,469	1,506	1,544
Ovary	3,984	4,035	3,946	3,901	4,078	4,105	3,979	3,813	3,864	3,799	3,730	3,733
Prostate	8,531	8,570	8,502	8,271	8.936	9,004	9,160	9.167	9,017	9,057	9,230	9,157
Testis	68	75	71	70	58	61	74	69	67	64	52	60
Kidney, except renal pelvis	2,540	2,585	2.602	2,590	2,658	2,771	2,823	2,954	2,931	3,102	3,035	3.085
Bladder	4,542	4,468	4,309	4,412	4,435	4,422	4,408	4,304	4,190	4,304	4,360	4,456
Eye, brain and other parts of central nervous system	2,915	2,949	2,924	2,962	3,071	3,026	3,053	3,103	3.072	3,229	3,275	3,302
Hodgkin's disease	265	272	241	246	231	252	279	277	253	302	285	281
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	3,912	3,958	4,043	4,017	4,074	4,214	4,142	3,942	3,940	3,987	4,013	4,000
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma ceil neoplasms	2,057	2,225	2.154	2,030	2,229	2,320	2,337	2,283	2,185	2,301	2,403	2,347
Leukaemia	3,593	3,548	3,674	3,562	3,793	3,906	3,924	3,823	3,893	3,859	3,935	3,924

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following table.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for all cancers and selected cancers

Group name	*ICD-10 code*	*ICD-9 code*
All cancers	C00-C97	140-208
Lip, oral cavity and pharynx	C00-C14	140-149
Oesophagus	C15	150
Stomach	C16	151
Small intestine	C17	152
Colon	C18	153

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for all cancers and selected cancers

Group name	*ICD-10 code*	*ICD-9 code*
Rectosigmoid junction, rectum, anus and anal canal	C19-C21	154
Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	C22	155
Gallbladder and biliary tract	C23-C24	156
Pancreas	C25	157
Larynx	C32	161
Trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	162

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for all cancers and selected cancers

Group name	*ICD-10 code*	*ICD-9 code*
Skin	C43	172
Other Malignant Neoplasm of skin	C44	173
Mesothelioma	C45	No equivalent codes
Kaposi's sarcoma	C46	No equivalent codes
Breast	C50	174-175
Cervix uteri	C53	180
Other and unspecified parts of uterus	C54-C55	179, 182
Ovary	C56	183
Prostate	C61	185
Testis	C62	186
Kidney, except renal pelvis	C64	189
Bladder	C67	188
Eye, brain and other parts of central nervous system	C69-C72	190-192
Hodgkin's disease	C81	201
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	C82-C85	200, 202
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	C90	203
Leukaemia	C91-C95	204-208

Construction: Industry

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate her Department has made of the number of people seeking work in the construction industry at the latest date for which figures are available. [283454]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were seeking work in the construction industry at the latest date for which figures are available. (283454)

Unemployment estimates are routinely derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS); however this source does not hold information on which sectors people are seeking employment in.

As an alternative we have supplied information on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) based on the stated occupation they are seeking work in. Occupations are classified based on the Standard Occupation Classification 2000 (SOC2000).

Table 1 shows the number of people claiming JSA in May 2009 who were seeking work in a range of construction related occupations.

Table 1: Number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) seeking work in the construction related occupations, May 2009

SOC Code	*Sought occupation*[1]	*JSA claimants*
1122	Managers in construction	6,500
2121	Civil engineers	2,200
2431	Architects	1,690
2432	Town planners	230
2433	Quantity surveyors	1,270
2434	Chartered surveyors (not quantity surveyors)	1,350
3114	Building and civil engineering technicians	895
3121	Architectural technologists and town planning technicians	1,215
3122	Draughtspersons	2,080
3123	Building inspectors	150
5241	Electricians, electrical fitters	12,340
5311	Steel erectors	1,590
5312	Bricklayers, masons	15,205
5313	Roofers, roof tilers and slaters	6,690
5314	Plumbers, heating and ventilating engineers	11,565
5315	Carpenters and joiners	25,740
5316	Glaziers, window fabricators and fitters	5,585
5319	Construction trades n.e.c.	6,585
5321	Plasterers	10,645
5322	Floorers and wall tilers	4,955
5323	Painters and decorators	21,075
8141	Scaffolders, stagers, riggers	4,845
8142	Road construction operatives	3,495
8143	Rail construction and maintenance operatives	1,815
8149	Construction operatives n.e.c.	9,115
9121	Labourers in building and woodworking trades	50,325
9129	Labourers in other construction trades n.e.c.	40,585
	Total	249,735

[1] Occupations are classified based on the Standard Occupation Classification 2000 (SOC2000).

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Employment: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many single parents below state pension age with dependent children were *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed for any period in each constituency in the East of England region in each of the last 10 years; [283421]

(2) how many people aged 16 years and over who were resident in each constituency in the East of England region were unemployed for any period in each of the last 10 years. [283422]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged 16 years and over who were resident in each constituency in the East of England were unemployed for any period in each of the last 10 years; and how many single parents below state pension age with dependant children were (a) employed and (b) unemployed for any period in each constituency in the East of England in each of the last 10 years. (283422 & 283421)

The required information is not available; the Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS), however estimates from this source do not exist at the level of detail requested.

Males: Breast Cancer

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of male breast cancer were reported in *(a)* each health authority in each of the last five years and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years;

and what the highest number of cases of male breast cancer reported in a health authority was in the last five years. [283720]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many reported cases of male breast cancer there were (a) in each health authority in each of the last five years and (b) in England in each of the last 10 years; and what the highest number of cases of male breast cancer reported in a health authority was in the last five years [283720].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. The number of cases of male breast cancer (a) in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years and (b) in England in each of the last 10 years is in Table 1 and 2. The highest number of cases of male breast cancer reported in a strategic health authority in the last five years was 47.

Table 1: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer, strategic health authority, 2002-06

Health Authority	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	17	15	14	16	15
North West	32	35	34	33	35
Yorkshire and the Humber	17	31	30	21	21
East Midlands	23	27	25	21	18
West Midlands	30	27	28	22	29
East of England	24	28	38	21	41
London	34	38	26	30	42
South East	21	21	20	18	24
South Central	16	22	22	20	16
South West	44	47	30	33	34

Note:
Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer: England, 1997 to 2006

	Number of cases
1997	228
1998	259
1999	259
2000	216
2001	230
2002	258
2003	291
2004	267
2005	235
2006	275

Note:
Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department provides facilities for meditation for its staff. [283103]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office provides facilities which can be used for prayer, meditation and reflection.

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment has been made of the cost-effectiveness of Government funding for *(a)* charities, *(b)* social enterprises and *(c)* voluntary organisations. [284206]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector provides over £515 million of funding for third sector programmes and has commissioned a number of evaluations of individual programmes including Capacitybuilders, Futurebuilders and Grassroots Grants. All of these independent evaluations consider the cost-effectiveness of Government funding and have been or will be published.

One of the most significant developments in evidencing the cost-effectiveness of funding has been the establishment of the Economic and Social Research Council's £10 million Third Sector Research Centre last year. The Office of the Third Sector is providing £5million funding to this new centre, which will look at measuring the economic impact of the sector, including considerations of cost-effectiveness of statutory funding.

The National Audit Office's recent value for money report, published in February 2009, considered cost effectiveness of Government funds for capacity building the sector. Other work by the NAO on Public Funding of Large Charities (August 2007) and Implementation of Full Cost Recovery (June 2007) also looked at issues of cost effectiveness.

OTS has recently completed and published a guide to the value of Social Return on Investment (May 2009). Social Return on Investment is a way of measuring and accounting for a broader range of outcomes (such as social and environmental outcomes) rather than constraining cost effectiveness to the financial element alone. This work is of particular value when demonstrating the effectiveness of funding to the third sector.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have taken *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between two and three years and *(d)* more than three years to open following (i) the initiation of the brokering phase and (ii) the statement of interest. [278081]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June2009]:* We do not have a central record of when brokering discussions begin for academy projects, and it would be above the cost threshold to collect these data. The Statement of Intent phase has only been a formally recorded part of the process since 2007.

Of the open academies with Statements of Intent (SOI) none has taken less than a year to progress from SOI to open, 14 have taken between one and two years and none has taken longer.

Children: Emigration

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many leave to remove applications have been brought in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many such cases have been granted in each such year. [283303]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Data on applications for leave to remove a child from the UK are not held centrally. However, the following table shows the number of individual cases where there was an order granting leave to remove a child from the UK. Data were not collected prior to 2000.

	Number of cases in England and Wales where leave to remove a child from the UK was granted
2000	190
2001	292
2002	333
2003	435
2004	447
2005	474
2006	383
2007	398
2008	355

Notes:

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database.
2. Data include cases in England and Wales county courts and high courts but exclude a small number of cases in family proceedings courts (FPCs).
3. Leave to remove a child from the UK may be granted as part of residence order proceedings.
4. An order granting leave to remove a child from the UK may refer to more than one child.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many and what percentage of schools which had staff absent for an average of five or more days per teacher 30 per cent. or fewer pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in the last year for which figures are available; [283432]

(2) how many and what percentage of schools in each decile of *(a)* area deprivation by school residence and *(b)* area deprivation by pupil residence have been recorded as having a teacher absence rate of at least five days per teacher in the last year for which figures are available; [283502]

(3) how many and what percentage of schools in which *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 60 per cent., *(c)* 70 per cent. and *(d)* 75 per cent. or more of teachers were absent for one or more days had 30 per cent. or fewer of their pupils achieve five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in the last year for which figures are available. [283504]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Teacher absence information is limited to that caused by sickness and this is collected at the local authority level which cannot be linked to individual schools' GCSE attainment or area deprivation information.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to respond to the letter of 12 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Maidenhead on Aiming High for Disabled Children. [283606]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A reply to the letter, signed by the Secretary of State, was sent to the hon. Member on 19 June 2009.

Personal Social and Health Education

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools that cover issues related to violence against women in personal, social, health and economic education classes. [283600]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not have statistics for the number of schools teaching about violence against women in PSHE education.

However, we acknowledge that schools have an important role in raising awareness of domestic violence and abuse issues by giving children and young people the knowledge and skills to not only deal with their own anger but anger and violence directed towards them.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research he has evaluated on levels of efficiency in relation to *(a)* his Department's spending on schools and *(b)* funds spent by maintained schools. [283096]

Mr. Coaker: In recent years, the Department has sponsored a number of research projects and in-house analytical projects in this area. In relation to the efficiency of the Department's spending on schools, the Consistent Financial Reporting data collection has been implemented since 2002-03. It is used at national and school level internally for modelling the impact of new policies and used externally at school level via the Financial Benchmarking website. This site enables users to prepare charts that compare their school's income and expenditure profile with that of similar schools so that they can make informed decisions on how to manage their resources effectively.

In relation to the efficiency of funds spent by maintained schools the Department has constructed school level measures of efficiency derived from Data Envelopment Analysis models. These models generate a measure of efficiency for every secondary school, which express how effective they have been in delivering pupil outcomes given their resourcing levels and pupil context relative to the most efficient school in the sector that faces similar funding and contextual constraints. A similar project for measuring efficiency in primary schools is due to take place this summer.

The details of the efficiency measures for secondary schools can be found in the following publication:

Analysis of Secondary School Efficiency: Final Report, Professor Peter C Smith and Dr. Andrew Street

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=RR788&

Youth Citizenship Commission

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish each *(a)* letter and *(b)* email sent from his Department to the Youth Citizenship Commission since the commission was established. [283443]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has had no contact with the Youth Citizenship Commission either by letter or email since the commission was established.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing Finance Review

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 642-3W, on council housing, if he will place in the Library a copy of each research report produced by external organisations in relation to his Department's review of council housing finance. [283496]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 30 June the Minister for Housing announced in a written ministerial statement that a consultation document on the review of council housing finance will be published before the summer recess. The research reports will be published alongside this consultation document and subsequently placed in the Library.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he expects the Homes and Communities Agency to publish its annual report and accounts. [283436]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 202W.

Housing: Armed Forces

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many armed forces personnel living in *(a)* London, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* the East of England region have applied for assistance to (i) purchase a home under the New Build HomeBuy scheme and (ii) rent a home under the intermediate rent scheme in each month since October 2006. [283492]

John Healey: The information requested on applications for assistance under the New Build HomeBuy and intermediate rent schemes is not held centrally. Applications are processed by Homebuy agents (appointed housing associations) as part of the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing programme.

Housing: Ex-servicemen

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have required the Ministry of Defence to obtain a possession order before providing housing assistance to ex-armed forces personnel in each of the last five years. [283497]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which banks *(a)* participate in and *(b)* offer mortgage finance for purchasers under the (i) HomeBuy Direct, (ii) OwnHome, (iii) OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(iv)* the First-time Buyers' Initiative, (v) MyChoice HomeBuy, (vi) New Build HomeBuy, (vii) Social HomeBuy and (viii) Rent to HomeBuy scheme. [283235]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 897W.

Participation in low cost home ownership schemes is a commercial decision for individual lenders. We are engaging regularly with lenders to ensure the continuance of mortgages for HomeBuy purchasers.

For (ii)—OwnHome product is a joint venture between Places for People and the Co-operative Bank. As such the Co-operative Bank is the only lender involved in this scheme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there were under the National Affordable Housing programme in each region in each of the last five years. [283449]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of affordable homes completed through the National Affordable Housing programme (NAHP) in each region in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	620	710	830	910	700
North West	2,020	2,000	2,260	2,490	3,170
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,460	1,040	1,420	1,460	1,640
East Midlands	1,630	1,790	2,530	2,060	3,120
West Midlands	2,240	2,360	3,220	2,000	3,140
Eastern	4,080	3,960	5,090	4,480	6,460
London	9,800	8,900	10,390	11,390	13,410
South East	8,640	8,810	9,210	8,220	9,080
South West	3,260	3,170	3,950	3,190	4,670
England	33,750	32,740	38,890	36,190	45,390

Notes:

1. Comprehensive figures showing the total number of affordable housing starts are not available.
2. The affordable housing completions include social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership. Not all affordable housing completions are provided through the NAHP.
3. The affordable housing figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households rent a property under Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each region. [283450]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 751W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's officials have had with (i) HomeBuy agents, (ii) Places for People and (iii) the Co-operative on the winding-up of the Open Market HomeBuy schemes. [284119]

John Healey: In managing and developing the Affordable Housing programme, officials from this Department and the Homes and Communities Agency have regular discussions with HomeBuy agents and equity loan providers, including about the Open Market HomeBuy scheme.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 23W, on planning, what assessment he made of the effects on local authorities of the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the time limits relating to planning permission. [284083]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State's assessment is set out in the consultation stage impact assessment which forms part of the consultation document "Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions". This is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/flexibilitypermissions

Planning: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he has allocated to local authorities in planning grant for each of the next three years. [284266]

Mr. Ian Austin: Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) totals £435 million and has been approved for the period 2008 to 2011 which covers only the next two years. Funding beyond that period has not yet been agreed. HPDG is broken down per annum as follows:

	£million
2008-09 (year 1)	100
2009-10 (year 2)	135
2010-11 (year 3)	200

A consultation on proposed changes to the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant allocation mechanism for year 2 and year 3 closed on 23 June 2009. Consideration is currently being given to the responses and a Government response will be made shortly.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on whether strategic environmental assessments in regional spatial strategies should be applied to *(a)* proposals that set development policies for specific locations and *(b)* reviews of green belt in specific locations. [283638]

Mr. Ian Austin: Regional spatial strategies are required to undergo sustainability appraisals, incorporating the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Regional spatial strategies may identify broad locations for development and include policies on the need for green belt reviews. The potential environmental effects of policies for development of broad locations, and any policies involving green belt reviews, are identified in these appraisals and taken into account in the development of the strategy. However, it would be for the local planning authorities to determine any detailed changes to green belt boundaries.

Regional Planning and Development: Transport

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regional transport strategies will be incorporated into integrated regional strategies. [282483]

Mr. Ian Austin: Regional transport strategies presently form part of regional spatial strategies for each of the English regions outside of London. In replacing regional spatial and economic strategies, the new regional strategies will also address transport issues.

Social Housing: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take as part of its autumn crackdown on social housing fraud, as referred to on page 19 of the Building Britain's Future publication. [283617]

Mr. Ian Austin: Further details will be announced in due course.

Social Rented Housing: British Nationality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of social housing units which are occupied by British nationals. [284039]

Mr. Ian Austin: There were an estimated 3,670,000 social housing units in England over the period 2006-07 and 2007-08 that were occupied by UK or Irish nationals—equivalent to 92 per cent. of all social housing.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on Tenant Services Authority: public relations, to what services the contract between the Tenant Services Authority and APCO relates. [283630]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1345W, by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett).

Unitary Councils: Costs

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 210-11W, on unitary councils: costs, what estimate has been made of *(a)* transition costs and *(b)* efficiency savings in respect of each new unitary authority; and if he will make a statement. [282869]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The figures show estimates of one-off transition costs for each of the nine new unitary councils established on 1 April 2009. The table also shows estimates of savings included in the councils' budgets for 2009-10 which are either directly attributable to the transition to unitary local government or facilitated by it.

£ million

Unitary council	*Transition costs*	*2009-10 savings*
Bedford borough	6.5	9.9
Central Bedfordshire	19.8	8.5
Cheshire West and Chester	15.0	29.0
Cheshire East	15.5	25.1
Cornwall	19.3	17.1
Durham	12.5	26.3
Northumberland	16.1	23.8
Shropshire	12.1	10.8
Wiltshire	17.0	8.6
Total	133.8	159.1

Zero Carbon Hub

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding has been allocated to the Zero Carbon Hub for each of the next three years. [283619]

Mr. Ian Austin: The funding to be provided by the Department to the Zero Carbon Hub will be £750,000 in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11, subject to satisfactory delivery of the Hub's business plan. Decisions on funding beyond 2010-11 will be considered as part of future spending reviews.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of levels of *(a)* take-up and *(b)* awareness of his Department's priority treatment scheme for veterans; [283025]

(2) on how many occasions *(a)* war pensioners and *(b)* veterans have received priority treatment in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland in each year the priority treatment scheme has been in operation. [283034]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Since 1 January 2008, all veterans have priority access to national health service secondary care for any conditions that are likely to be related to their service, subject to the clinical needs of all patients. Data on take-up of priority treatment and numbers of priority treatment received are not collected centrally. NHS chief executives were informed of the extension of provision of priority treatment to all veterans in December 2007 (Access to Health Services for Military Veterans) and subsequently in June 2008 in a letter to strategic health authorities (SHAs) (Health Services for the Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans - Guidance for SHAs). Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library. The NHS Operating Framework published in December 2008 makes it very clear that primary care trusts and providers should be delivering this for all relevant referrals.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Panther vehicles which are being upgraded for theatre entry will undertake. [281610]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle is a multi-role light vehicle that can be configured as a scout, command or liaison vehicle or as a weapons platform. It will be used in a variety of roles in operational theatres as determined by operational commanders on a case-by-case basis.

Frigates

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many frigates there are available for use by the Royal Navy for each maritime role. [283654]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Royal Navy has 17 operational frigates: four Type 22s and 13 Type 23s. These are all capable of fulfilling a wide range of maritime roles from high-intensity war-fighting to peacetime patrolling. Specifically eight are configured with anti-submarine warfare and four with command and control and specialist capabilities.

India: Military Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Indian counterpart on India's combat aircraft project. [283589]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Secretary of State for Defence currently plans to visit India later this year, when he will discuss matters of mutual interest.

Japan: Military Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Japanese counterpart on Japan's plans to increase its number of fighter jets. [283584]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The former Secretary of State for Defence met Defense Minister Hamada in February at the 45th Security Policy Conference held in Munich where they discussed, among other issues, Japan's future fighter programme plans. A Defence ministerial visit is planned for later this year which will look to further UK-Japan co-operation and bilateral defence exchanges.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department makes towards hospitality expenses in respect of the funerals of members of the armed forces killed in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [283455]

Bill Rammell: The MOD does not contribute specifically towards hospitality expenses in respect of funerals. When a service person (including a member of the reserve forces when on duty) dies it is MOD policy [illegible] arrange a funeral at public expense or provide funding towards the cost of a private funeral dependant upon the wishes of the next of kin. If a family chooses to have a publicly funded service funeral, a grant of £500 is paid to the next of kin or executor of the estate to help cover incidental expenses. When a family chooses to have a private funeral, a higher grant is paid towards the cost of funeral expenses. This can be up to a maximum of £2,876.00 if the family have taken responsibility for all the arrangements themselves.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279508]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Secondment

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are on secondment from his Department to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [280366]

Mr. Kidney: DECC currently have five staff seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are on secondment from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to his Department. [280367]

Mr. Kidney: DECC currently have no secondments from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279401]

Mr. Kidney: Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Since DECC was created in October 2008, its special advisers have not attended any training courses.

Electric Cables

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the forthcoming national policy statement on electricity transmission networks will require good design, as defined in the Planning Act 2008, to be considered in the construction of new overhead transmission lines. [282413]

Mr. Kidney: The Secretary of State will have regard to the desirability of achieving good design as part of the overall objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in relation to national policy statements. This is a requirement of the Planning Act 2008 and will apply to all energy NPSs including those covering electricity networks. National policy on good design will therefore be addressed in the national policy statements.

Energy: Prices

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department has on the number of energy supply company customers who are on social tariffs; and whether social tariffs are available to new customers of each of the energy supply companies. [281572]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem monitors the suppliers' social programmes on behalf of Government. In its latest report published in December 2008 Ofgem gave the latest data on discounted and social tariffs for 2007-08. A copy of the report can be found at

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documentsl/Monitoring%20Suppliers%20Social%20Spend%20171.08.pdf

The number of customer accounts on social tariffs per supplier, using Ofgem's definition at that time, that a social tariff had to be as good as the supplier's standard direct debit tariff, was:

Supplier	*Tariff name*	*Total customer accounts as at 31 March 2008*
British Gas	Essentials (Electricity)	113,584
	Essentials (Gas)	200,845
	Total	314,429
EDF Energy	Energy Assist (Electricity)	46,130
	Energy Assist (Gas)	15,742
	Total	61,872
E.ON	Social StayWarm (Electricity)	26,833
	Social StayWarm (Gas)	25,495
	Total	52,328

Supplier	*Tariff name*	*Total customer accounts as at 31 March 2008*
npower	First Step (Electricity)	2,108
	First Step (Gas)	1,398
	Total	3,506
Scottish Power	Social tariff launched on 1 April 2008	—
SSE	EnergyPlus Care (Electricity)	15,282
	EnergyPlus Care (Gas)	11,077
	Total	26,359
Total	Electricity	203,937
	Gas	254,557
	Total customer accounts	458,494

In this same report Ofgem also estimated that as at the end of October 2008 there were over 800,000 customer accounts benefiting from a social or discounted tariff.

In a report published by Ofgem in July 2008,

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring_suppliers_10508.pdf

Ofgem set out its new criteria for what constitutes a social tariff. To qualify as a social tariff it has to be at least as good as the lowest tariff in a customer's area. Ofgem will report formally on the suppliers' social programmes later this summer. The report will include information on whether existing social tariffs and any other new versions that have been introduced by the suppliers since its last report are or continue to be consistent with the revised definition of a social tariff.

The Department does not hold any specific information on the average length of time a customer has to be with an energy supplier before being able to apply for a social or discounted tariff. However, in their December 2008 report on suppliers' social programmes, Ofgem supplied details of the qualifying criteria for the suppliers' social and discounted tariffs. This information shows that there is no minimum qualifying period for a customer to be eligible for suppliers' social and discounted tariffs with the exception of E.On's WarmAssist tariff, where a customer has to be with the company for at least a year before qualifying.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent discussions he has held with his counterpart in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Austria, *(c)* Denmark and *(d)* the United Arab Emirates on their bids to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency; and whether he plans to support any candidate; [281421]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the subject of UK membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency; [281422]

(3) what recent discussions he has held with his counterpart in *(a)* Canada, *(b)* China, *(c)* Japan, *(d)* India, *(e)* Brazil, *(f)* Australia and *(g)* the US on membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency. [281423]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* I am pleased to announce that the UK joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on 26 June 2009.

We have for some months been in close and regular contact with both the German Government and other key participants in IRENA. We have fully supported and actively participated in the process for establishing the new organisation.

As a member, the UK will now work to ensure that IRENA becomes a key force in the promotion of a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale.

The UK will participate fully in the second meeting of the Preparatory Commission on 29-30 June 2009. Decisions on the future location of the new organisation, and on the appointment of its Director-Gener[illegible] will be taken in the light of discussion at that meeting.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on the International Renewable Energy Agency, what recent discussions he has had with his German counterparts on a timetable for UK membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency. [281745]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to his questions 281421, 281422, and 281423.

Radioactive Materials: Thorp

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the THORP reprocessing plant is not operational; for how long he expects the plant to be non-operational; and if he will make a statement. [280089]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* THORP is currently operating on a batch by batch basis where each batch requires its own safety justification. Existing policy for THORP is the plant will continue to operate until existing contracts have been completed or the plant is no longer economic.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the potential effect of measures in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill on *(a)* tidal stream technology and *(b)* off-shore wind power generation. [281351]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with Cabinet colleagues including the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a range of issues, including in relation to marine and renewable energy.

Renewable Energy: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on the potential development of marine renewable energy projects off the Pembrokeshire coast. [279454]

Mr. Kidney: I have not had any discussions recently on the potential development of marine renewable energy projects off the Pembrokeshire coast. However, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change and DECC officials have had contact with a developer who plans to deploy wave energy devices off the Pembrokeshire coast.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 273929, *(b)* 273930, *(c)* 273931 and *(d)* 273932, tabled on 5 May 2009, on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281294]

Mr. Kidney: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change replied to the hon. Member's questions on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 513W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Fisheries Policy

16. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on proposals to reform the Common Fisheries Policy. [283391]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I spoke at the April and May Councils of Fisheries Ministers. On both occasions I, and my EU counterparts, presented our respective initial reactions to the Green Paper on CFP reform published by the European Commission in April.

Oyster Fishery: Essex

17. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the sustainability of the Colchester native oyster fishery off the Essex coast; and if he will make a statement. [283392]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has made no assessment of the sustainability of the Colchester native oyster fishery.

Coastal Access

19. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on rights of appeal against a coastal access report under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill; and if he will make a statement. [283396]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following concerns raised during the Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the Bill and during its passage through the House of Lords, we brought forward schedule 1A to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as inserted by schedule 19 to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. This will enable those with a relevant interest in affected land to make objections should they believe the proposals in Natural England's coastal access reports fail to strike a fair balance on certain grounds.

Bluefin Tuna

20. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to protect bluefin tuna stocks in EU waters. [283397]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks are governed by the management plan agreed at the 2008 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This includes tight controls on minimum sizes, shortened fishing seasons, a trade documentation scheme and enhanced inspection and observer schemes. ICCAT will also implement a comprehensive fleet capacity reduction plan. The UK encouraged the Commission to adopt a stringent conservation approach so that all fishing for bluefin is heavily regulated.

Dairy Industry

21. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the future of the dairy industry. [283398]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The longer term prospects for the dairy sector are encouraging and the UK is well placed to take advantage of the expected growth in global demand. The British dairy sector as a whole is fundamentally sound and through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum we are providing a framework for constructive debate and information for the industry to make informed decisions about its future.

23. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist the dairy farming sector. [283400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Working with industry, through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum we are providing a framework for constructive debate and information for the supply chain to make informed decisions about its future. The Forum also considers sector efficiency and sustainable development.

Pitt Report

22. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the implementation of the recommendations in the Pitt report; and if he will make a statement. [283399]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers and officials maintain regular contact with relevant bodies on a range of issues concerning the recommendations set out in Sir Michael Pitt's report into the 2007 summer floods, in particular to maintain a dialogue on progress against the action plan that the Government have set out. An update report detailing the progress Government have made in implementing the report's recommendations was published on 25 June.

Renewable Energy

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to increase the proportion of waste from which energy is derived; and if he will make a statement. [283394]

Dan Norris: Government are committed to maximising energy recovered from unavoidable residual waste, making the most of its potential to contribute to our climate change and wider environmental objectives. The Renewable Energy Strategy, due for publication this summer, will set out how we will support the supply of biomass waste for energy and the necessary infrastructure.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to the development of agricultural businesses in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280102]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives, by financial year, funding in the East of England region from 1998-99 onwards[1] (data for 1997-98 are not readily available electronically). Separate figures are not available for the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency. These figures include payments made under Rural Development Programmes since 2000, agri-environment payments made prior to that date and payments made directly to agricultural businesses by the East of England Development Agency.

	Total (£)
1998-99	3,000
1999-2000	2,951,000
2000-01	10,617,000
2001-02	13,359,000
2002-03	16,934,000
2003-04	21,645,000
2004-05	29,093,000
2005-06	33,101,000
2006-07	42,613,000
2007-08	51,088,000
2008-09	56,428,000
Grand total	277,832,000

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(b)* Natural England and *(c)* regional development agencies for the purposes of the administration of funding allocated under the common agricultural policy in 2008-09; and how much funding his Department has allocated for those purposes in 2009-10. [280755]

Dan Norris: DEFRA allocated £202 million in 2008-09 and £183 million in 2009-10 to the Rural Payments Agency for the purposes of administering the funding allocated under the common agricultural policy.

Natural England was allocated £13.6 million in 2008-09 and £14.6 million in 2009-10 to cover its direct costs associated with administering the pillar 2 axis 2 spend in the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) under the common agricultural policy. These administration costs are less than 4 per cent. of the value of the RDPE programme.

£4.95 million was transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in each year to cover the costs of regional development agencies' delivery of the socio-economic measures of the Rural Development Programme for England.

Floods: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for flood preparedness and flood defence projects in Birmingham in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [283395]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Birmingham city council has been successful in securing £153,900 of DEFRA funding to provide household level resilience measures to 27 properties in the Frankley area of Birmingham.

The Environment Agency advises that it has also funded various maintenance works over the last 12 months which total approximately £490,000.

Incinerators: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 578W, on waste disposal: Newcastle upon Tyne, whether his Department issues guidance to local authorities on the inclusion of incinerators as a waste management option in private finance initiative contracts for waste disposal. [283302]

Dan Norris: All private finance initiative (PFI) guidance is technology neutral and seeks to ensure that authorities and their procurements obtain value for money. DEFRA does however provide guidance on appraising residual waste infrastructure options. The guidance is available on DEFRA's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/funding/pfi/procurement-pack.htm

I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1097W, which clarifies DEFRA's policy on technology choice for PFI projects.

Sheep Dipping: Organophosphates

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to protect farm workers from health problems associated with the use of organophosphate sheep dip. [283698]

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[1] Figures obtained from DEFRA, East of England Development Agency and Natural England.

Jim Fitzpatrick: Over the years the Government have taken a series of measures aimed at minimising any risks from exposure to organophosphates used as sheep dips.

These include:

introducing a requirement that those purchasing OP sheep dips hold certificates of competence in their use;

introducing a requirement that those dipping are to be supervised by a certificate of competence holder;

introduction of closed transfer systems designed to minimise the risk of users coming into contact with OP dip concentrate;

improving the available guidance (including on the product label) on the safe use of OPs;

introducing additional requirements for protective clothing.

All of the Government's measures have been based on the best scientific evidence and advice available at the time. The Government will continue to seek expert advice on this issue and will not hesitate to take appropriate and proportionate regulatory action on the basis of any new evidence.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 964W, on Afghanistan: detainees, whether the British embassy in Washington notified officials in his Department of the transfer of detainees from Guantánamo Bay to Bermuda before those detainees arrived in Bermuda. [283232]

David Miliband: Our embassy in Washington notified officials in London as soon as they were made aware by the US Administration, a few hours before the former detainees arrived in Bermuda early on 11 June 2009.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 631W, on Afghanistan: detainees, whether the agreement between the United States and the Government of Bermuda regarding the transfer of inmates from Guantánamo Bay includes financial provisions; and if he will make a statement. [283327]

David Miliband: The US has committed to pay to the Government of Bermuda costs of up to US$100,000 to assist with the living expenses of the four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay.

Afghanistan: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations the Government have made to the Government of Afghanistan on ensuring the safety from violent attacks on female journalists in Afghanistan; [283518]

(2) what recent reports his Department has received of violent attacks on female journalists in Afghanistan. [283519]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware that attacks against female journalists have taken place, for example the attack on Zakia Zaki, who ran the private radio station Peace Radio. She was killed by multiple gunmen in her home north of Kabul, in the central province of Parwan, on 5 June 2007.

We deplore attacks on any journalist—male or female—and supported the joint EU-Norway declaration on freedom of expression made on 16 April 2009:

http://www.delafg.ec.europa.eu/en/downloadable_documents/Nov_2008/Press_Release/DFE_16apr09.pdf

We welcome the huge growth in independent Afghan media since 2001, but, as the declaration states, we are concerned about evidence of a gradual deterioration of the situation regarding freedom of expression, including the growing intimidation and violence targeting Afghan journalists, and challenges to the independence of the media.

If the Afghan Government were to enact the new Media Law, already passed by the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament, it would do much to help ensure respect for freedom of expression, particularly in the run-up to the elections this August. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has raised this issue with President Karzai and we will continue to lobby the Afghan Government to pass the law.

Strengthening the rule of law is also essential to protecting individuals, including journalists, from violence and intimidation. But the challenges are long-term and significant. We continue to support the Afghan authorities in developing an effective police force, improving access to justice and strengthening the formal justice system's ability to prosecute offenders and tackle corruption. In 2008-09, the UK allocated £29 million to strengthen Afghan interdiction and law enforcement capacity.

Cluster Munitions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and when he expects the ratification process to be completed. [283493]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the Government's intention to ratify the Convention as soon as possible. In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention of Cluster Munitions, the criminal offences to enforce the Convention's prohibitions on use, development, production, stockpiling, retention and transfer of cluster munitions need to be in place before ratification. A Cluster Munitions Prohibitions Bill which will create the necessary criminal offences has a place in the Government's Draft Legislative Programme that was published on 29 June 2009.

Cyber Security: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing a cyber security operations centre. [283310]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The cyber security operations centre (CSOC) will be established in September 2009 to bring together existing multi-agency efforts to provide situational awareness, analysis and incident response co-ordination in the cyber security field, making sure that new and existing resources are used to best effect in the areas where they are needed the most. The additional resources for the Government's overall cyber security programme will be reported to the House in the autumn.

European Council: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the meetings of the European Council in 2010 and 2011 are scheduled to take place. [282589]

Chris Bryant: European Council meetings for the first half of 2010 (under the Spanish presidency) are scheduled to take place on 25-26 March and 17-18 June 2010. Dates for European Council meetings in the second half of 2010 and 2011 have yet to be set.

European Union: Jordan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the EU-Jordan Informal Summit on 17 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [283233]

David Miliband: The discussions between the EU and Jordan on 17 June 2009 focused on peace in the Middle-East. The Jordanian delegation, led by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, and the EU agreed on the importance of making rapid progress. Achieving peace in the Middle-East is also a high priority for the EU and for the UK. We will continue to work towards a comprehensive peace based on a two-state solution, involving a secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state.

Honduras: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in Honduras; and if he will make a statement. [283585]

Chris Bryant: We condemn the forcible removal of President Manuel Zelaya from Honduras on Sunday 28 June 2009. Along with others, the UK has called for a swift resolution of the situation and the restoration of the legitimate, democratic Government of the country. I issued a statement to this effect on 28 June 2009 condemning President Zelaya's expulsion. The UK also supported a UN General Assembly Resolution, adopted unanimously on 30 June 2009, which condemned these events which have

> "interrupted the democratic and constitutional order and the legitimate exercise of power in Honduras".

The resolution also demanded the restoration of the Government, and called on states not to recognise any Government other than the constitutionally elected one. Demonstrations have been occurring in Honduras and the military are deployed on the streets of the capital Tegucigalpa. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and call for the peaceful resolution in accordance with the constitutional order of Honduras and the principles of rule of law and democracy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 6 April 2009 on his constituent, Ms Daphne Green of Chelmsford. [278812]

Chris Bryant: I replied to the hon. Member on 1 July 2009.

Tamils

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of violent extremism in the UK connected with Tamil extremists. [281609]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

As a matter of policy we do not disclose assessments of levels of terrorist activity and violent extremism in the UK by members of specific communities. The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) is responsible for assessing the terrorist threat to this country and UK interests overseas, and Ministers play no part in that decision-making process. The general UK threat level has been publicly available since August 2006 and currently stands at 'Severe'.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE—"Tamil Tigers") has for many years been the main terrorist organisation connected to Tamil affairs in Sri Lanka.

The LTTE remains a proscribed organisation in the UK, and membership, fundraising and various other activities in support of the organisation are criminal offences. The prosecution of terrorist offences committed in support of the LTTE is the responsibility of the police and Crown Prosecution Service.

HEALTH

Abortion: Health Services

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much medical services assigned to the termination of pregnancies under the Abortion Act 1967 cost the NHS in each of the last five years; and what estimate has been made of the cost of such services in 2009-10. [282732]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the total cost of medical and surgical termination of pregnancies undertaken by national health service organisations between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the latest five years for which information is available.

Cost of abortions 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Total cost of abortions undertaken by NHS organisations (£ million)
2003-04	69.4
2004-05	76.4
2005-06	81.1
2006-07	83.5
2007-08	84.1

Notes:
1. Figures taken from schedule 4 (NHS trusts and primary care trusts combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08.
2. Figures do not include abortions performed by private sector organisations under contract to the NHS.
3. Figures include day cases, electives (including excess bed days), non-electives (including excess bed days), out-patient procedures and regular day and night admissions.
4. Total costs are the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) multiplied by the national average unit cost and the number of excess bed days multiplied by the national average unit cost.
5. National average unit costs are calculated on a weighted basis.
6. 2003-04 to 2005-06 costs were collected on Healthcare Resource Group version 3.5 (HRG3.5) and include:
(a) M09—Threatened or Spontaneous Abortion
(b) M10—Surgical Termination of Pregnancy
(c) M11—Medical Termination of Pregnancy
7. 2006-07 and 2007-08 costs were collected on HRG4 and include:
(a) MA15A—Vacuum Aspiration with Rigid Cannula for nine weeks gestation or more
(b) MA15B—Vacuum aspiration with Rigid Cannula for less than nine weeks gestation
(c) MA16Z—Vacuum Aspiration with Flexible Cannula
(d) MA17A—Dilation and evacuation 20 weeks or more
(e) MA17B—Dilation and evacuation less than 20 weeks
(f) MA18Z—Medical Termination of Pregnancy

No estimate has been made for the cost of NHS abortions in 2009-10.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were for diagnosis code *(a)* F10.0, *(b)* F10.1, *(c)* F10.2, *(d)* F10.3, *(e)* F10.4, *(f)* F10.5, *(g)* F10.6, *(h)* F10.7, *(i)* F10.8 and *(j)* F10.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [283175]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* The information is shown in a table which has been placed in the Library.

On advice from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care (Information Centre) data by primary care trust (PCT) have not been given; instead data have been given by strategic health authority (SHA). This is because the small number of patients at PCT level requires that all of the data for the 14 to 17 age group and the majority of the 18 and over age group would have to be suppressed, to prevent any identification of individuals, which means that the data which could be supplied would be meaningless.

Additionally, the Information Centre has advised that SHA data be used instead of Government Office Region (GOR) data. SHAs have very similar boundaries to GOR, with the exception of South East Coast SHA and South Central SHA, which are together aggregated to South East GOR. It should be noted that after 2005-06 the SHA configurations changed, with the 28 SHAs merging to form 10 larger SHAs.

The number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as one patient may have been admitted more than once.

Allergies: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services plans to meet representatives of the National Allergy Strategy Group to discuss allergy services. [283622]

Ann Keen: I wrote to the National Allergy Strategy Group on 15 May this year accepting their request for a meeting and we are in the process of organising a convenient date.

Breast Cancer: Males

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what campaigns his Department has undertaken to raise public awareness of male breast cancer in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [283718]

Ann Keen: While the Department has not funded any national male breast cancer awareness campaigns in the last two years, we are working to improve cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation across all cancers, including male cancers. This is being taken forward through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, formally launched in November 2008.

Through the initiative, almost £5 million has been allocated to the national health service to support cancer networks and primary care trusts in implementing local services that will improve awareness of cancers and promote early diagnosis.

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the incidence of cancer with each ICD-10 classification. [283281]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what is latest estimate of the incidence of cancer with each ICD-10 classification. [283281]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. The incidence of cancer with each ICD-10 classification in 2006 is in Table 1.

These figures have been published in "Cancer Statistics Registrations. Registration of cancer diagnosed in 2006, England", Series MB1, No. 37. This volume will be placed in the House of Commons Library and can be accessed on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=l&Rank=272

Table 1: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for each ICD-10 in England, 2006

ICD-10 code	*Site description*	*All ages*
C00	Malignant neoplasm of lip	236
C01	Malignant neoplasm of base of tongue	224
C02	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of tongue	955
C03	Malignant neoplasm of gum	203
C04	Malignant neoplasm of floor of mouth	313
C05	Malignant neoplasm of palate	283

Table 1: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for each ICD-10 in England, 2006

ICD-10 code	*Site description*	*All ages*
C06	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of mouth	411
C07	Malignant neoplasm of parotid gland	382
C08	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified major salivary glands	124
C09	Malignant neoplasm of tonsil	700
C10	Malignant neoplasm of oropharynx	175
C11	Malignant neoplasm of nasopharynx	207
C12	Malignant neoplasm of pyriform sinus	262
C13	Malignant neoplasm of hypopharynx	126
C14	Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the lip, oral cavity and pharynx	201
C15	Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	6,353
C16	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	6,216
C17	Malignant neoplasm of small intestine	710
C18	Malignant neoplasm of colon	19,043
C19	Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction	2,345
C20	Malignant neoplasm of rectum	8,658
C21	Malignant neoplasm of anus and anal canal	744
C22	Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	2,571
C23	Malignant neoplasm of gallbladder	507
C24	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of biliary tract	708
C25	Malignant neoplasm of pancreas	6,432
C26	Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined digestive organs	638
C30	Malignant neoplasm of nasal cavity and middle ear	213
C31	Malignant neoplasm of accessory sinuses	124
C32	Malignant neoplasm of larynx	1,708
C33	Malignant neoplasm of trachea	40
C34	Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	31,127
C37	Malignant neoplasm of thymus	104
C38	Malignant neoplasm of heart, mediastinum and pleura	218
C39	Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the respiratory system and intrathoracic organs	3
C40	Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage of limbs	208
C41	Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage of other and unspecified sites	222
C43	Malignant melanoma of skin	8,658
C44	Other malignant neoplasms of skin	67,042
C45	Mesothelioma	2,024
C46	Kaposi's sarcoma	125
C47	Malignant neoplasm of peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system	79
C48	Malignant neoplasm of retroperitoneum and peritoneum	436
C49	Malignant neoplasm of other connective and soft tissue	1,155
C50	Malignant neoplasm of breast	38,279
C51	Malignant neoplasm of vulva	862
C52	Malignant neoplasm of vagina	203
C53	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	2,321
C54	Malignant neoplasm of corpus uteri	5,648
C55	Malignant neoplasm of uterus, part unspecified	262
C56	Malignant neoplasm of ovary	5,346
C57	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified female genital organs	182
C58	Malignant neoplasm of placenta	7
C60	Malignant neoplasm of penis	415
C61	Malignant neoplasm of prostate	30,024
C62	Malignant neoplasm of testis	1,693
C63	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified male genital organs	44
C64	Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except renal pelvis	5,454
C65	Malignant neoplasm of renal pelvis	422
C66	Malignant neoplasm of ureter	362
C67	Malignant neoplasm of bladder	8,373
C68	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified urinary organs	168
C69	Malignant neoplasm of eye and adnexa	349
C70	Malignant neoplasm of meninges	59
C71	Malignant neoplasm of brain	3,603
C72	Malignant neoplasm of spinal cord, cranial nerves and other parts of central nervous system	104
C73	Malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland	1,674
C74	Malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland	150
C75	Malignant neoplasm of other endocrine glands and related structures	80
C76	Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites	424
C77	Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes	643
C78	Secondary malignant neoplasm of respiratory and digestive organs	3,236
C79	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other sites	1,165
C80	Malignant neoplasm without specification of site	4,734
C81	Hodgkin's disease	1,351
C82	Follicular (nodular) non-Hodgkins's lymphoma	1,448
C83	Diffuse non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	3,986
C84	Peripheral and cutaneous T-cell lymphomas	575
C85	Other and unspecified types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	2,759
C88	Malignant immunoproliferative diseases	194
C90	Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	3,242
C91	Lymphoid leukaemia	2,963
C92	Myeloid leukaemia	2,768
C93	Monocytic leukaemia	46
C94	Other leukaemias of specified cell type	24
C95	Leukaemia of unspecified cell type	224
C96	Other and unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	37
C97	Malignant neoplasms of independent (primary) multiple sites	0
C00-C97	All cancers[1]	309,226

[1] All cancers, coded to C00-C97 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Cancer: Health Services

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the NHS meets the deadline of December 2009 for the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer. [283737]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidance on supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer in March 2004. The National Cancer Action Team is working closely with cancer networks to monitor and support the implementation of this guidance by the end of December 2009. Plans for the implementation of this guidance are now in place in every cancer network, and it is expected to be fully implemented by the December 2009 deadline.

Cancer: Research

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department allocated to research into *(a)* cancer and *(b)* ovarian cancer in the last five years. [281329]

Gillian Merron: The most recent available information in respect of the departmental and national health service expenditure on cancer research is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	140
2004-05	150
2005-06	168
2006-07	161
2007-08	159

The Medical Research Council and other research councils funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills also invest significantly in cancer research. Comparable information in relation to ovarian cancer research is not held centrally.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute, a United Kingdom wide partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org

Details of current departmental and Medical Research Council site-specific cancer research can be found through this database.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing *(a)* a national identity and *(b)* an information strategy for his Department's vascular checks programme. [282969]

Ann Keen: An identity for the NHS Health Check programme working under the NHS brand has been developed to support the promotion of the NHS Health Check programme. Identity guidelines are available at:

www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk

Nationally produced NHS Health Check information materials are being developed and made available to primary care trusts. The Department has worked with key stakeholders to develop and test the information leaflet to be sent out with invitations for the check or with a confirmation of an appointment; this has been placed in the Library.

A section of the NHS Choices website:

www.nhs.uk/nhshealthcheck

and a national NHS Health Check telephone helpline (0845 850 9850) have been set up to provide further information to people invited for a NHS Health Check.

Dental Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of appointments with dentists offering an NHS service which have been made in each region in each month of the last two years. [283192]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected.

However information is available on the number of patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24 months in England in Table Dl, Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2008 report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008, and is provided at primary care trust and strategic health authority level.

This report has already been placed in the Library. It is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests for appointments with dentists offering an NHS service in each region have been refused on the basis that the dental practice had used its allocation of NHS funding in each month of the last two years. [283198]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have made claims under the NHS Low Income Scheme in respect of NHS dental charges in each of the last five years; and how much has been paid out from the scheme in each such year. [283445]

Ann Keen: Patients who make an application to the National Health Service Low Income Scheme and who are assessed as qualifying for help with NHS charges receive a certificate which entitles them to free NHS dental treatment or a partial reduction in their liability to pay charges, according to their individual circumstances.

Patients may qualify for free NHS dental treatment on a number of grounds, including being in receipt of one of a number of specified benefits or allowances or qualifying for assistance under the NHS Low Income Scheme. Information is not available centrally on the number of courses of dental treatment provided to patients who claim an entitlement under the NHS Low Income Scheme in particular, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of access to NHS dentistry in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency. [283182]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of patients seen in the most recent 24-month period is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 3, 31 December 2008 report. Information is provided at quarterly intervals from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008. This report, published on 21 May 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Workforce figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information in both reports is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by constituency. They are based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006.

All 10 SHAs have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest.

We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent, uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton, an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

The report of the Independent Review of Dentistry in England, published on 22 June, recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn.

Drugs: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were for diagnosis code *(a)* F11.0, *(b)* F11.1, *(c)* F11.2, *(d)* F11.3, *(e)* F11.4, *(f)* F11.5, *(g)* F11.6, *(h)* F11.7, *(i)* F11.8 and *(j)* F11.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [283176]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* The information is shown in a table which has been placed in the Library.

On advice from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care (Information Centre) data by primary care trust (PCT) have not been given; instead data have been given by strategic health authority (SHA). This is because the small number of patients at PCT level requires that all of the data for the 14 to 17 age group and the majority of the 18 and over age group would have to be suppressed, to prevent any identification of individuals, which means that the data which could be supplied would be meaningless.

Additionally, the Information Centre has advised that SHA data be used instead of Government Office Region (GOR) data. SHAs have very similar boundaries to GOR, with the exception of South East Coast SHA and South Central SHA, which are together aggregated to South East GOR. It should be noted that after 2005-06 the SHA configurations changed, with the 28 SHAs merging to form 10 larger SHAs.

The number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as one patient may have been admitted more than once.

Drugs: Side Effects

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of adverse incidents associated with the use of medicines outside their licensed indication in the last 12 months. [283283]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the United Kingdom for all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter and general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

In 2008, the MHRA received 25,375 UK spontaneous suspected ADR reports in total. It is not possible to estimate from the Yellow Card Scheme the exact number of people who suffer adverse reactions to drugs used outside their licensed indication since the MHRA's database for adverse drug reactions does not differentiate between suspected ADRs for drugs used within or outside of their licensed indications for use.

Food Standards Agency: Public Appointments

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in recruiting a new Chair of the Food Standards Agency. [283155]

Gillian Merron: The position of Chair of the Food Standards Agency is appointed jointly by the Secretary of State for Health and the Health Ministers in the devolved Administrations. The role was advertised in March 2009 for a period of four weeks. The application period closed on 14 April. The selection panel shortlisted the applications in May and interviewed candidates in June. Ministers considered the panel's recommendations and agreed Lord Rooker as the preferred candidate.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has invited the House of Commons Health Select Committee to scrutinise the preferred candidate prior to appointment. The Committee are due to scrutinise the appointment on 6 July 2009.

The process, run by the Appointments Commission, is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and has been conducted in accordance with the Commissioner's Code of Practice for Public Appointments, involving an independent assessor at all stages, including the shortlist and interview panel.

Health Hazards: Aerials

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has evaluated on the potential effects on health of mobile telephone masts; and if he will make a statement. [283253]

Gillian Merron: The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry has supported a number of studies into the possible health effects of radio frequency technology relating both to mobile telephone masts and hand-held mobile phones. The MTHR programme published its first report in September 2007. None of the 23 individual studies reported under this programme to date demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radio frequency exposure from mobile phones or telecommunications base stations (masts). Ongoing studies include a case control study of cancer incidence in early childhood and proximity to mobile phone base stations.

The MTHR programme management committee recognised that some concerns still remain and proposed some additional work. Further studies in this second phase are under way. Details of all MTHR projects can be found on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/research_projects/research.htm

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) Radiation Protection Division keeps the relevant research publications under continual review largely through its independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR). Information on AGNIR can be found at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/
HPAweb_C/1195733801791

The HPA provides advice on electromagnetic fields and health to Government and the general public at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&
HPAwebAutoListName/Page/
1158934607786?p=1158934607786

Heart Diseases: Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will have discussions with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the provision of oxygen cylinders and the transportation of medical equipment free of charge for those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who are travelling by air. [283170]

Ann Keen: There are no current plans to do so. Although specific arrangements are available on request within the national health service to support patients who require oxygen in multiple locations, including holidays within England, there are no imposed arrangements to support the transportation by patients of their own oxygen and medical equipment by air. Each airline has its own regulations about whether they allow patients to take their own oxygen cylinders or medical equipment on board; or whether the airline will supply the equipment (usually at a fee). Before considering flying, those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who require provision of oxygen should also consider consulting their general practitioner about their fitness to fly.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of average waiting times for hospital treatment in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency. [283183]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect referral to treatment waiting times data at constituency level or at county level. However, the following table shows the average referral to treatment times for the Sefton primary care trust (PCT) which serves the Crosby constituency and for neighbouring PCTs in April 2009 (latest published data):

Median referral to treatment times

		Weeks
	Admitted pathways	*Non-admitted pathways*
Sefton Primary Care Trust	7.2	4.9
Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust	7.6	4.0
Wirral Primary Care Trust	8.8	3.7
Liverpool Primary Care Trust	6.9	4.1
Knowsley Primary Care Trust	7.3	4.4

Source:
Department of Health referral to treatment data

Hyperactivity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated to the NHS research and development programme for research into treatments and services for patients with adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the last five years. [283294]

Gillian Merron: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council support attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) research. Available annual expenditure data are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on ADHD research

£000

	Department of Health	*Medical Research Council*
2004-05	0	480
2005-06	0	380
2006-07	88	594
2007-08	613	294
2008-09	710	[1]—

[1] Not yet available.

The departmental figures relate to national research programmes. They do not include expenditure on ADHD research from the research and development allocations made from 2004-05 to 2007-08 to national health service organisations as that information is not held centrally.

The National Institute for Health Research's clinical research network is currently supporting 12 studies concerned with ADHD.

Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* full-time equivalent and *(c)* part-time staff from his Department provided support for the production and publication of the report of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England; [283111]

(2) what the cost was of staff provided by his Department for the production of the Independent Review of NHS Dental Services in England. [283112]

Ann Keen: Staff to support the review were provided by dedicated project support teams from within existing departmental resources.

This incurred no additional cost to the Department.

Malaria

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of malaria there have been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 10 years. [280700]

Gillian Merron: The following table gives the numbers of reported cases of malaria for England and areas of the North East. Further breakdown by area is not available.

	England	*North East (Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, Northumberland)*
1999	1,978	5
2000	1,981	2
2001	1,987	3
2002	1,886	6
2003	1,667	4
2004	1,572	4
2005	1,691	16
2006	1,682	5
2007	1,472	6
2008	1,312	3

Source:
The Health Protection Agency's Malaria Reference Laboratory

Meningitis: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's assessment of the two new candidate vaccines for the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. [283167]

Gillian Merron: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) reviewed the evidence on the two new candidate pneumococcal conjugate vaccines on 15 January 2009 and 18 February 2009.

The minutes of the JCVI pneumococcal subgroup (15 January 2009) and minutes of JCVI meeting (18 February 2009) are available on the JCVI website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/JCVI/DH_095054

An Official Journal of the European Union advert has been placed for a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. The contract is likely to be awarded in September.

Methadone: Young People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people, *(b)* under 18-year-olds, *(c)* under 16-year-olds and *(d)* under 12-year-olds were treated with methadone in each of the last five years; and what the (i) mean, (ii) median and (iii) longest time was for which people in each category were on methadone in each year. [282777]

Gillian Merron: Information is not held centrally on the number or age of patients treated with a particular drug or the duration of their treatment programme. The following table shows the number of people receiving prescribing treatment for the previous four years.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) has been collecting data on people in drug treatment in England since 2004-05. NDTMS records the numbers of people receiving specialist prescribing rather than the specific substitute drug a drug misuser in treatment is prescribed. Therefore while most receive oral methadone, some people may be prescribed buprenorphine or other substitute opioids.

Number of individuals receiving prescribing treatment (including methadone)

England	*Number*
2004-05	88,196
2005-06	107,093
2006-07	118,107
2007-08	131,468

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 581W, on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, if he will place in the Library a copy of the version of the report sent to his Department on 20 February 2009 by the Healthcare Commission; and on what dates less complete versions were sent to his officials. [278713]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Departmental officials received incomplete drafts, without substantive findings or appendices on 18 December 2008 and 6 February 2009. We do not propose to place them in the Library because they were provided in confidence to check factual accuracy. It is in the public interest that reports that are factually accurate should be published and that information for checking can be shared in confidence.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage uplift to the tariff to take account of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals and clinical guidelines has been in each year since the introduction of Payment by Results; which NICE technology appraisals have met the criteria for tariff adjustment; what the tariff adjustment was in each such case; and on what date each such NICE technology appraisal was published. [283264]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table sets out the proportion of the annual tariff uplift that relates to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals, clinical guidelines and secondary care drugs prices:

Tariff year	*Uplift (percentage)*
2009-10	1.0
2008-09	0.7
2007-08	1.0
2006-07	1.2
2005-06	1.1

Notes:

1. Uplift figures are taken from information published each year to support the implementation of Payment by Results, available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/pbr

2. For consistency, the uplift figures combine NICE appraisals/clinical guidelines and secondary care drugs prices, as from 2008-09 onwards these elements have not been separately identified in the tariff uplift breakdown.

3. All figures are net of Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) adjustments.

4. Figures are provided from 2005-06 onwards, as this was the first year in which Payment by Results was applicable for all trusts.

Information on which NICE technology appraisals have met the criteria for tariff adjustment, and the dates on which they were published, is contained in the Payment by Results (PbR) guidance documents for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10. These guidance documents also contain information on specific adjustments made where NICE appraisals can be mapped to specific Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs).

PbR guidance documents for 2005-06 to 2009-10 have been placed in the Library, and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/pbr

Information on the proportion of the tariff uplift that can be assigned to individual NICE appraisals is not available. This is because when setting the tariff uplift, the Department makes use of a range of estimates and forecasts and makes a judgment about the appropriate level. In assessing the cost pressures associated with drugs and NICE appraisals, account is taken of the fact that some drugs and devices fall outside the scope of PbR (and are priced locally) or are subject to a specific HRG adjustment.

It should be noted that NICE produce information on cost and financial impact on the national health service when they publish guidance. Further information is available on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the quality adjusted life years formula with the NHS constitution. [283266]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No such assessment has been made. The quality adjusted life year is an internationally recognised tool for measuring health outcomes that has been refined and verified over many years. It is helpful in assessing the clinical and cost-effectiveness of different health interventions, helping to balance the twin imperatives of high quality and good value. High quality care and best value for taxpayers' money are principles set out in the national health service constitution.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made in implementing *(a)* recommendation 4 and *(b)* the other recommendations made in the report by Professor Mike Richards on improving access to medicines for NHS patients, published on 4 November 2008; [283340]

(2) what progress has been made in the review by strategic health authorities of arrangements to support collaboration in *(a)* decision-making on the use of new medicines, *(b)* exceptional funding requests and *(c)* the use of medicines outside their licensed indication. [283286]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: With regard to the progress made in implementing recommendation 4 of Professor Mike Richards' report and the review by strategic health authorities, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W.

Good progress is being made in completing three out of four of the remaining recommendations.

NHS: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under which budget headings the £80 million of savings from the temporary reduction in value added tax to be used by the NHS for complementary support will be allocated. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The £80 million of savings from the temporary reduction in the rate of value added tax has not been added to a specific budget but has been retained by primary care trusts (PCTs), as part of their general allocations. PCTs have been encouraged to use up to the £80 million savings to commission complementary services—including debt advice and family counselling—wherever there is local need.

NHS: Sponsorship

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the acceptance of sponsorship from private enterprises; and how much each PCT received in private sponsorship in the latest period for which figures are available. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 18 June 2009]*: Previously guidance was sent out by the Department in 2000, and has been placed in the Library.

The Department no longer gives specific guidance to primary care trusts on acceptance of sponsorship. National health service bodies may enter into commercial sponsorship arrangements to raise additional income, but they should avoid entering into arrangements with organisations that are perceived as being in conflict with health, for example tobacco companies.

It is a matter for local NHS organisations to determine their own policy on this matter and they should use local arrangements to publicly declare sponsorship or any commercial relationship linked to the supply of goods or services and be prepared to be held to account for it. The information requested is not held centrally.

Information on health services in the other United Kingdom countries is a matter for the other devolved Administrations.

NHS: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an assessment of the effects of use of meditation techniques by NHS staff. [illegible]

Gillian Merron: The use of meditation techniques for national health service staff would be a local decision. As part of a range of relaxation techniques for hypertension, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance in 2005 stated that routine provision by primary care teams was not currently recommended.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients died while on a waiting list for an NHS operation in *(a)* the East of England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) each of the last five years. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Pain: Health Services

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were diagnosed with chronic pain in each year since 1997; [283116]

(2) what steps the NHS is taking to assist people diagnosed with chronic pain; [283152]

(3) how many specialist pain management services there are in the NHS in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England. [283154]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the number of people diagnosed with chronic pain and the number of specialist pain management services in the national health service is not collected centrally.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission services for people with chronic pain to meet the needs of their local population. The Department is supporting commissioning through the recent publication of an 18-week pathway for the management and treatment of chronic pain and treatments. NHS Choices has also provided information that will raise awareness of chronic pain and treatments.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by the NHS to tackle chronic pain in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [283153]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health does not hold the requested information for the Jarrow constituency. Figures detailing NHS expenditure on chronic pain in 2006-07 in South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT)/North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and England are given in the following table:

2006-07

	Gross expenditure (£000)
South Tyneside PCT	3,239
North East SHA	63,505
England level	1,007,704

Notes:

1. England level data are estimated gross expenditure, and include core Department of Health, SHA and some special health authority expenditure as well as expenditure by PCTs.
2. PCT level data are estimated expenditure on own population.
3. Continual refinements are made to the calculation methodology and to underlying data sources which makes like-for-like comparisons between years difficult.
4. Expenditure across all sectors is included.
5. Disease specific expenditure will not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but will include prescribing expenditure.
6. Subcategory data for chronic pain were collected for the first time in 2006-07. These should be used with caution as they are in the early days of development.

Pharmacy: Crime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to repeal the provisions of the Medicines Act 1968 which make a dispensing error by a pharmacist a criminal offence. [283610]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government recognise concerns that specific provisions contained in the 1968 Medicines Act may be used to prosecute pharmacists who make a dispensing error.

A full review of the Medicines Act is already under way by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This will include consideration of changes that may be made to the law to ensure that it provides the necessary safeguards for the public while being proportionate as to how instances of clinical error are dealt with. The MHRA is working closely with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and other stakeholders on the Medicines Act review.

Solihull Hospital: Maternity Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the provision of local maternity services of implementation of the proposed changes to the services provided on the maternity ward in Solihull Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [283213]

Gillian Merron: Service reconfiguration is a matter for the local national health service, in conjunction with clinicians, patients, and other stakeholders and an assessment of the potential changes to the services provided on the maternity ward in Solihull Hospital has therefore not been made by the Department.

The West Midlands strategic health authority (SHA) reports that there are potential changes to the provision of maternity services provided by the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. It is the responsibility of the SHA to work with local commissioners, in this case Solihull Care Trust and Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust, to ensure that appropriate maternity services are commissioned, in line with "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", published on 3 April 2007 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), and "Safer Childbirth: Minimum Standards for the Organisation and Delivery of Care in Labour", published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in October 2007.

Swine Flu: Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of households in England have received information leaflets on swine flu. [282160]

Gillian Merron: It is estimated that the swine flu information leaflet was delivered to just under 95 per cent. of households in England. Distribution was carried out in May 2009.

Extra copies of the leaflet were sent to general practitioner surgeries, pharmacies, halls of residence and primary care trusts as well as members of the publicity register, which consists of intermediary organisations that deal with the public, all of which were able to order further copies for distribution.

The information leaflet is also available online at:

www.nhs.uk

www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

and

www.dh.gov.uk

It is available in foreign language translations, large print, Braille, audio CD and tape, BSL and an easy read version for people with learning disabilities.

While every effort has been made to achieve delivery to 100 per cent. of households, residents in some flats or shared accommodation who have central mail boxes may have received only one leaflet per location.

Weather: Death

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the number of deaths caused by excessive heat in developed countries which regularly experience summer temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius; and if he will make a statement. [283157]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* The Department currently funds the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine via the Medical Research Council to evaluate research on the effect of heat waves, including patterns of excess seasonal deaths. This work, which informs the annual review of the national heat wave plan, involves collaborating with other developed countries that typically reach higher summer temperatures than the United Kingdom. Therefore, the Department has no current plans to commission other specific research in this area.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Detainees

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were being detained without charge on the basis of evidence which had not been disclosed to the detainee at the latest date for which figures are available. [283447]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not collected centrally.

The collection held by the Home Office on police detention under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and terrorism legislation cannot separately identify the number of people detained without charge on the basis of evidence which had not been disclosed to the detainee.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average street price of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* ecstasy, *(c)* gamma hydroxybutyrate and *(d)* ketamine in each of the last 10 years. [281969]

Alan Johnson: Street prices for drugs vary considerably and are dependent on a number of factors. Prices are given where available in the following table.

All prices are based on collective data.

£

Commodity	*Unit size*	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*
Cannabis resin	per 1/8 ounce	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	15	15	15
	per ounce	50	60	60	60	60	61 (£60)	66 (65)	79 (80)	80	85
Cannabis skunk	per 1/8 ounce	20	20	20	20	20	20	25	25	30	30
	per ounce	120	135	136 (135)	118 (120)	120	121 (120)	121 (120)	133 (135)	143 (145)	147 (150)
Ecstasy	per tablet	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	6	7.50	10
Ketamine	per gram	20	20	20	No price data						
GHB		Insufficient data to provide accurate "range" or "common" prices									

Immigrants: Somalia

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali nationals have *(a)* voluntarily returned to and *(b)* been forcibly removed to Somalia from the UK in the last two years. [282736]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available. The following table shows the number of nationals of Somalia removed or departed voluntarily to Somalia in the last two years by type of departure.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1], for nationals of Somalia to Somalia[2], by type, January 2007 to December 2008

	Number of departures[3]	
	2007[4]	*2008[4]*
To Somalia,	40	30
nationals of Somalia		
Of which:		
enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[5, 6]	10	20
Assisted Voluntary Returns[7]	20	5
other voluntary departures[8]	10	—
non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[9]	—	—

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Destination as recorded on source database.
[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[4] Provisional figures. Figures will under-record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.
[5] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
[6] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.
[7] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
[8] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[9] Includes removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

Internet: Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's budget for cyber-security was for 2008-09. [277342]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office takes cyber-security very seriously. In addition to research in this area, cyber-security is an integral part of every Home Office IT system but it is not costed separately; hence it is not feasible to give a total budget figure.

Police: Identification

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made against police officers in each police force for not displaying their shoulder number in the last five years. [282504]

Mr. Hanson: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the collation and annual publication of police complaints and discipline statistics. However, these statistics are not broken down to the level of detail requested.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Afghan Perspectives Report: The Provincial Reconstruction Team and Quick Impact Projects, Helmand Province of April 2008. [282883]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Afghan Perspectives Report is not suitable for release. It contains sensitive information, the publication of which I am advised could put individuals at risk.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate has been made of the number of people who have been displaced from North Kivu owing to the security situation in that region since the beginning of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [282829]

Mr. Thomas: According to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 350,000 people have been displaced from or within North Kivu since the beginning of 2009.

Democratic Republic of Congo: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to contribute to the UN emergency appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [282827]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government have already disbursed £20 million to the humanitarian pooled fund in response to the appeal for the 2009 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) humanitarian action plan. This week we will release a further £15 million of the £35 million of funding announced by the Secretary of State in January. We are also planning to contribute £500,000 to an Oxfam GB intervention in Lubero territory in North Kivu province.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the security situation in North Kivu on the capacity of humanitarian organisations to deliver assistance to that region; and if he will make a statement. [282828]

Mr. Thomas: The current situation in North Kivu is characterised by significant humanitarian needs, widespread violence and human rights violations. Along with continuing insecurity, emergency assistance is also hampered by weak basic services, insufficient funding and too few humanitarian organisations on the ground.

Ongoing military operations led by the Congolese Army (FARDC) against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) have further restricted humanitarian access and the ability to distribute relief items, leaving many with no or insufficient assistance.

The Department for International Development is committed to helping to alleviate the humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In January the Secretary of State announced a commitment of £35 million for 2009 for humanitarian needs.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's development aid to Kenya which was *(a)* misappropriated and *(b)* used for purposes other than those for which it was intended in the last two years. [283168]

Mr. Thomas: The majority of UK development aid to Kenya goes through civil society organisations, international NGOs, UN agencies and other private implementing partners, who usually have robust project monitoring and financial accounting systems. Approximately 30 per cent. of our programme goes directly to the Government of Kenya through earmarked accounts, which are rigorously monitored and audited. Thorough fiduciary risk assessments are undertaken of individual ministries and projects before we provide funding to the Government of Kenya.

The only substantiated instance of misappropriation I am aware of in the last two years was in 2007, when £18,968 was misappropriated from a DFID health programme. The fraud was picked up by DFID systems, the funds were recovered and returned to DFID, and legal action was taken against the suspect. This constitutes less than 0.02 per cent. of UK development aid to Kenya over a two-year period.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much overseas development assistance his Department has allocated to projects in Kenya in each year from 2007 to 2010. [283272]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) will publish details of all country resource allocations to 2010-11 in its annual report to be published later this month. This will be available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of humanitarian aid provided by the Government which *(a)* reaches and *(b)* does not reach its intended recipients. [282298]

Mr. Thomas: Department for International Development (DFID) aid is managed and controlled to ensure that it reaches its intended recipients. DFID does not provide humanitarian aid to foreign Governments, only to UN relief agencies, the Red Cross and reputable non-government organisations. It is monitored rigorously on the ground, at headquarters level and through systematic accounting, audit and parliamentary scrutiny. The National Audit Office and the International Development and Public Accounts Select Committees have in recent years examined and reported favourably on DFID's humanitarian spending.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the provision of humanitarian aid to Somalia. [282304]

Mr. Thomas: In May, the European Union (EU) General Affairs Council, attended by the Foreign Secretary and me, agreed a statement on Somalia which condemned the recent fighting in Mogadishu and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. It also welcomed the steps taken by the new Transitional Federal Institutions to consolidate the political process and stressed the continued engagement of the EU, including in the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as for reconstruction and development.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent humanitarian aid his Department has provided to the Darfur area of Sudan. [282313]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not systematically disaggregate humanitarian aid by region within Sudan. However, of our £110 million budget for Sudan for 2008-09, we provided approximately £55 million towards the humanitarian effort, of which over £30 million went to the Darfur region. This support is provided through bilateral funding for NGOs, support to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and contributions to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).

JUSTICE

Debts: Court Orders

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many charging orders for debt were obtained at each county court in each of the last two years. [283242]

Bridget Prentice: Copies of tables showing the total number of charging orders made against debtors in the county courts of England and Wales in 2007 and 2008, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* tried and *(c)* convicted of Ponzi-type frauds in each of the last five years. [283747]

Claire Ward: The information requested is not available.

"Ponzi-type fraud" is not an offence covered by specific legislation, and financial service providers involved in consequential criminal behaviour are likely to be charged with an offence appropriate to the circumstances (such as money laundering, fraud or dishonesty, theft or market abuse, etc).

Information held on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database on the number of prosecutions and convictions for fraud offences cannot be broken down further to show which of these offences specifically relate to the commission of a Ponzi-type fraud.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any mechanisms exist in the sentencing of those found guilty of Ponzi-type frauds for the provision of compensation or other payment to the victims of the fraud. [283750]

Bridget Prentice: Where a person is convicted of any offence, including fraud, the court has the power to impose a compensation order requiring the offender to pay a specified sum to a victim who has suffered personal injury, loss or damage to property. The court must give reasons, on sentencing, if it does not make a compensation order where it had the power to do so. However, in criminal cases, compensation is designed primarily to make clear to the offender the impact of the offence on the victim, rather than to make good the victim's losses. The amount of compensation must take account of the known means of the offender.

A compensation order, like a fine, is enforced by the magistrates courts using a range of enforcement powers. Where the offender is imprisoned, the compensation order remains active on the courts' systems and enforcement action can resume on the offender's release.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are in detention having been convicted of participation in or orchestration of Ponzi-type frauds; and what the average length of detention for this particular type of crime is. [283751]

Claire Ward: The information requested is not available.

Ponzi-type fraud is not an offence covered by specific legislation, and financial service providers involved in consequential criminal behaviour are likely to be charged with an offence appropriate to the circumstances (such as money laundering, fraud or dishonesty, theft or market abuse, etc).

While statistics are held on the number of detentions and average sentence lengths by each offence group (including fraud and forgery), they cannot be broken down further to show which of these convictions specifically related to the commission of a Ponzi-type fraud.

National Offender Management Service: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department provides training for prison staff in meditation techniques; [283100]

(2) if he will undertake research into the effectiveness of meditation techniques for prison service staff in assisting them to carry out their duties. [283104]

Maria Eagle: There is no central curriculum provision for training for prison staff in meditation techniques, although HMP Manchester is providing meditation training on a pilot basis locally for their staff. Whether more establishments are providing such training could be known only by obtaining information from each establishment, which would incur disproportionate cost.

There are no current plans to undertake national research into the effectiveness of meditation specifically for prison staff. However, the provision at HMP Manchester is currently being independently evaluated.

National Probation Service for England and Wales

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the post of Director of the National Probation Service was discontinued. [282962]

Maria Eagle: The post of the Director of the National Probation Service was discontinued on 29 March 2009.

The National Offender Management Service joins up both prisons and probation into one. There was no Director of Prison Service previously and due to the joined-up nature of the new organisation, once the transitional phase was ended, the post of Director of Probation was discontinued.

Parole: Health Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are subject to parole supervision in England and Wales who have *(a)* a drug addiction, *(b)* an alcohol addiction and *(c)* a mental health condition; and what funding he has allocated to services for such people in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [282725]

Maria Eagle: Figures regarding the substance misuse and mental health needs of people subject to parole supervision are not routinely collected centrally and so are unavailable in the form requested.

Prison Sentences

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average offenders with a minimum sentence of life spent in prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [283200]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of first releases from prison on life licence in 2007, and the average time served at time of release.

	Number released	*Average time served (years)*
Mandatory lifers	90	16
Other lifers	56	9

These figures are taken from table 9.5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and which can be found at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The 2008 figures will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 on 31 July 2009.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners : Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to prisons on informing local housing authorities that prisoners sentenced for a period of 13 weeks or less continue to receive their local housing allowance on an uninterrupted basis. [283623]

Maria Eagle: All prisons receiving offenders from the courts must conduct an initial housing assessment within the first four days of custody.

An integral part of the assessment ascertains if an offender is able to continue or initiate a claim for local housing allowance and triggers support to the prisoner to make or continue a claim where appropriate.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners were in open prisons on 31 May 2009. [282995]

Maria Eagle: At the end of March 2009 there were 204 foreign national prisoners detained in open prisons in England and Wales.

Data on foreign national prisoners are published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Annual data on FNPs, and other characteristics on the prison population, have been published each year in Offender Management Caseload Statistics from 2003 and before that in Prison Statistics England and Wales. Both publications are in the House of Commons of Library and may also be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of Chinese nationals who are in prison in the UK. [283322]

Maria Eagle: Figures for foreign national prisoners (FNPs) held in prisons in England and Wales have been published quarterly since June 2007 and can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Annual data on FNPs, and other characteristics on the prison population, are published each year in Offender Management Caseload Statistics from 2003 and before that in Prison Statistics England and Wales. Both publications are in the House of Commons of Library and may also be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

At the end of March 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 445 Chinese national prisoners detained.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mentally disordered prisoners have been transferred to hospital in the month before their release date in each year since 1999. [278553]

Maria Eagle: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) may direct prisoners with a mental disorder to be detained for treatment in psychiatric hospitals if their mental disorder requires it. The number of prisoners transferred to psychiatric hospitals has risen gradually over the last decade and is now about 1,000 a year.

Prison health care staff are advised to consult specialist mental health care providers and make proposals for transfer at the earliest possible time. The information requested is given in the following table.

	Number transferred in month before release date
1999	37
2000	37
2001	24
2002	16
2003	28
2004	29
2005	41
2006	44
2007	65
2008	52
2009	[1]32

[1] January to May only.

Probation Officers: Derbyshire

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of changes to the number of probation staff in Derbyshire in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [282964]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to provide estimates of staffing figures for Derbyshire at this time. Resource allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 have not yet been set.

The Derbyshire Probation Board has been developing its financial and business plans for the next three years, as part of its application to become a Probation Trust. Unions are being consulted as these plans are being developed.

When the outcome of its trust application is known and the resource allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 have been set, Derbyshire will prepare its workforce plans to deliver the required service within available resources. I will write to the hon. Member when resource allocations have been set and the associated workforce plans have been agreed by Derbyshire Probation Board.

Responsibility for resourcing levels lies with each probation board or trust as they are the employers of probation staff. It is for them to take the action necessary at a local level, within available resources, to ensure they can deliver the required service.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* qualified and *(b)* trainee probation officers there were in the Probation Service in England and Wales in each year since 2002. [282849]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of qualified and trainee probation officers in the Probation Service in each year since 2002.

	Full-time equivalents	
	Probation officers[1]	*Trainee probation officers*
2002[2,3]	5,966	1,566
2003[3]	6,271	1,818
2004[3]	6,585	1,774
2005[3]	6,894	1,386
2006[3]	7,209	1,134
2007[3,4]	7,119	1,138

[1] Includes senior probation officers, senior practitioners, probation officers and professional development assessors.

[2] Figures taken from the Home Office RDS Probation Statistics Report.

[3] Figures taken at 31 December each year.

[4] Figures for 2007 will shortly be published on the Probation Service Intranet and Internet sites.

This is also in the context of a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff. The Probation Service continues to cut reoffending rates, increase successful drug treatments and offending behaviour programmes, and carries out visible and punitive Community Payback.

Probation: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions in the latest period for which figures are available the Probation Service recommended a custodial sentence in pre-sentence reports; and what guidance his Department issues to the Probation Service on whether to recommend custodial sentences for imprisonable offences. [282867]

Maria Eagle: During the period January to December 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 17,164 cases where an immediate custodial sentence was the recommendation of a pre-sentence report. This information is available at the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm

The principal guidance provided to the Probation Service on sentencing proposals to make to the court is the Criminal Justice Act 2003: New Sentences and New Framework and the National Implementation Guide for the Criminal Justice Act 2003, both of which were issued in March 2005.

Both documents make clear that the report writer should propose a sentence that is proportionate to the level of seriousness and purpose, or purposes, of sentencing that the court intended, including the use of custodial or suspended custodial sentences. Separate guidance issued in June 2005 describes how the report writer should address sentences for public protection, also introduced by CJA 2003.

Further guidance was issued in April 2009 for court officers, report writers and offender managers that emphasised that reports should offer the court a clear proposal and that custody should be proposed where no other sentence was suitable. The Government believe that prison is the right place for the most dangerous, serious and persistent offenders, and we are increasing prison capacity to ensure that we always have enough places for these offenders.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation: West Yorkshire

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on service delivery of recent changes to the funding allocation of the Probation Service *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in West Yorkshire. [280687]

Maria Eagle: The funding reduction of £20 million for probation in 2009-10 should be viewed in the context of a provisionally reported £17 million underspend in 2008-09 and is therefore achievable without compromising front line delivery and public protection. The position nationally and for West Yorkshire, which shows a provisionally reported underspend of £325,000 in 2008-09, is similar.

From 1 April, regional Directors of Offender Management have been in place to provide the necessary strategic oversight of offender management services at a regional level.

The Director of Offender Management for Yorkshire and Humberside, Steve Wagstaffe, has met individually Chief Officers and Chairs from every area and trust in the region to discuss budget planning. He is carefully monitoring the work that is being undertaken locally to reduce the number of managerial and back office posts in order to concentrate resources on the front line.

Sentencing: Homicide

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on his review of the starting point for the minimum sentence for murder involving the use of a knife; and if he will make a statement. [283114]

Mr. Straw: I will be shortly be seeking the views of the senior judiciary and the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the appropriate starting point for determining the minimum term for murder using a knife.

Young Offenders: Children in Care

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19-year-olds in each young offender institution had previously been in the care of their local authority. [282916]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that was given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 391W.

Information on the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales who were in local authority care at some point when under the age of 16 is not centrally available.

However, a Social Exclusion Unit report 'Reducing re-offending by ex-Prisoners' published in 2002 reported that 27 per cent. of the prison population had been taken into care as a child against an average across the general population of 2 per cent.

Similarly, the information required to answer this question relating to 12 to 19-year-old prisoners previously in care of the local authority is not centrally available.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have repaid money received by them in allowance payments since the detailed information on hon. Members' allowance payments has been published; and how much has been so repaid *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average by hon. Members. [283442]

Barbara Keeley: Members repay sums to the House for numerous reasons, many of which are unconnected with the recent publication of detailed information on allowances, such as for end-year reconciliations and in respect of refunds by suppliers. Since 1 April 2009, 264 Members have repaid a total of £642,728.75. The average refund was £2,434 per Member.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 988-90W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website operated by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [280720]

Mr. Woodward: The number of *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions received by each website for the last 12 months as detailed in the answer of 3 February is shown in the following table.

	Youth Justice Agency		*NI Prison Service*		*OCTF*		*Northern Ireland Office*	
Month	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*
June 2008	2,851	22,067	11,121	481,656	2,833	63,059	28,297	501,941
July 2008	2,508	22,943	9,581	691,732	2,527	69,260	20,631	463,098
August 2008	2,043	21,337	7,859	1,786,452	2,043	63,271	18,458	383,870
September 2008	2,214	19,615	8,426	686,181	2,175	58,327	22,379	441,252
October 2008	2,237	22,919	9,823	674,066	2,584	63,891	27,814	559,138
November 2008	2,395	23,184	10,708	729,506	2585	61,796	20,491	493,436
December 2008	1,884	18,295	9,375	765,327	2,398	55,750	22,677	354,193

	Youth Justice Agency		*NI Prison Service*		*OCTF*		*Northern Ireland Office*	
Month	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*	*Unique visitors*	*Page impressions*
January 2009	2,341	24,788	9,175	843,567	2,359	60,020	—	—
February 2009	2,151	22,604	10,469	910,119	2,228	50,245	—	—
March 2009	2,486	22,744	9,925	904,375	2,399	58,133	—	—
April 2009	2,218	18,495	10,423	1,110,648	2,647	53,380	—	—
May 2009	2,214	18,789	10,344	960,806	2,731	50,806	—	—
June 2009	2,851	22,067	6,613	543,361	[1]1,164	[1]18,349	—	—

[1] Figures as at 16 June 2009.

Notes:

1. Figures for the Northern Ireland Office website are not obtainable from January 2009 until present due to a changeover from our web statistic provider.
2. The Youth Justice Agency website:
www.youthconferenceserviceni.gov.uk
is not included as this website has not been in operation for the last 12 months.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Black Boxes

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will request the Civil Aviation Authority to press the International Civil Aviation Organisation to review the design of aircraft black boxes to ensure that after accidents they can *(a)* be more readily located and *(b)* transmit location signals for a longer period. [283491]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not aware of a particular deficiency in the design of aircraft flight data recorders and cockpit voice recorders (otherwise known as 'black boxes') which needs to be addressed.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) are being kept well informed of all developments in the investigation into the A330 Air France accident and will take any appropriate action necessary once the relevant facts are made available.

Departmental Consultants

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether consultants employed by his Department have served on departmental boards established to determine *(a)* promotions and *(b)* level transfers in the last 12 months. [283195]

Chris Mole: Human Resources interim managers in the Highways Agency fulfil the full range of duties associated with the role they are providing cover for and may from time to time serve on recruitment and promotion boards.

Interim managers in the Central Department from time to time serve on promotion and level transfer boards, providing they have undertaken the necessary training.

Interim managers have been used by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency during the last 12 months to assist civil servants on boards to determine promotions and level transfers. The decision who to employ was always made by a civil servant.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many consultants within his central Department act as interim managers; and of these how many act as *(a)* reporting officers and *(b)* countersigning officers for appraisal reporting purposes. [283701]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 383W, on departmental training, which bargaining units have rolled out his Department's competency framework for employees in pay bands 1 to 7. [282958]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (DFT) Central, the Vehicle Certification Agency, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Highways Agency have all rolled out the DFT competency framework to all staff below SCS.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency rolled out the competency framework to its non-industrial staff.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) decided not to implement the DFT Framework and is continuing to use an updated version of its former (DVO) competency framework. VOSA is committed to promoting Professional Skills for Government (PSG) to all staff and is currently taking positive steps to roll out PSG to all grades.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is also continuing to deploy the former DVO competency framework for its key HR procedures and processes. DVLA's commitment to and delivery of skills development and career management is strong and is inherently aligned to the principles of PSG, with work having been undertaken on job families and an "innovation centre" which has an excellent reputation. Work is planned to review what steps DVLA needs to take to progress PSG implementation further.

The Driving Standards Agency did not roll out PSG to grades below G7 via the DFT competency framework but is embedding PSG into individual people processes using the original PSG core skills.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors worked in the human resources section of his Department in 2008-09. [283194]

Chris Mole: The Central Department and its agencies recorded 37 consultants and contractors working within sections of human resources in 2008-09.

This figure excludes the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency. Any further breakdown can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much it cost to produce each of his Department's publications in each of the last three years. [280770]

Chris Mole: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Staff

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the merits of moving staff from DfT Hastings to the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission in Hastings; and if he will make a statement. [283700]

Chris Mole: No assessment has been made of the merits of moving Department for Transport staff in Hastings to the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission. Should any staff surplus arise, the Department will deploy the Cabinet Office Protocol for handling surplus staff situations, which has been agreed by the General Secretaries of our recognised trade unions.

Railways: Fees and Charges

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many penalty fares have been issued by each train operating company in each year since 1997. [283066]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Revenue protection is the responsibility of each train operator, and the Department does not generally monitor ticketless travel levels.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal road traffic accidents were recorded on roads in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) Huntingdonshire, (iv) Peterborough, (v) the East of England and (vi) England in each of the last 10 years. [283425]

Paul Clark: The numbers of reported *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal road traffic accidents that were recorded on roads in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire excluding Peterborough , (iii) Huntingdonshire, (iv) Peterborough, (v) the East of England and (vi) England in each of the last 10 years are given in table:

Number of reported accidents

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North West Cambridgeshire[1]										
Fatal	8	14	9	9	13	11	11	7	12	12
Non-fatal	488	531	536	480	501	513	517	490	424	449
Cambridgeshire excl. Peterborough										
Fatal	52	61	44	45	46	50	51	50	54	41
Non-fatal	2,367	2,565	2,606	2,496	2,453	2,469	2,409	2,238	2,100	1,939
Huntingdonshire										
Fatal	16	21	11	12	15	13	16	14	13	12
Non-fatal	664	700	720	702	696	632	644	618	599	544
Peterborough										
Fatal	11	11	9	11	12	15	10	8	18	11
Non-fatal	731	849	844	865	897	916	914	816	716	792
East of England										
Fatal	367	352	349	351	337	337	318	318	313	245
Non-fatal	21,421	22,023	21,573	20,711	20,098	20,061	19,205	17,892	17,393	15,904
England										
Fatal	2,678	2,659	2,700	2,717	2,787	2,514	2,495	2,483	2,311	1,965
Non-fatal	207,173	206,422	202,139	195,019	187,645	181,515	174,143	164,969	159,119	148,681

Trade Unions

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether officials in his Department have had discussions on de-recognition of the Public and Commercial Services Union in *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(b)* his Department; and if he will make a statement. [282957]

Chris Mole: There have been no discussions on de-recognition of the Public and Commercial Services Union in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency or Department for Transport centre.

Trams: Disabled

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on exemptions to disability access regulations for the historic Blackpool tram fleet. [283494]

Mr. Khan: Two representations have been received regarding the application of disability access regulations to the historic Blackpool tram fleet, within the context of the Department for Transport's ongoing consultation on changes to the domestic rail vehicle accessibility regime.

The Department for Transport is conscious of, and sympathetic to, the special heritage nature of the current tram fleet in Blackpool; however, it also recognises that public transport services should be available to all members of society. Therefore, the 16 new trams that the operator is currently procuring for regular service will comply with modern accessibility standards. However, officials have proposed exempting Blackpool's existing fleet from accessibility requirements for use on heritage services on the route. The decision on whether to grant an exemption will ultimately be for Parliament to decide.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time is for new child benefit claimants to receive written notification of their child benefit entitlement following their request for such notification; and in how many cases new claimants waited at least 30 days for such notification in the latest period for which figures are available. [283624]

Mr. Timms: This particular information is not available. However, for information on the amount of time it takes to pay a new child benefit claim I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason), on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1046-47W.

HMRC under these schemes at a cost of around £299 million. The savings in salary costs from these releases are estimated at £691 million.

Although all decisions on office closures have now been announced, the actual closures will be phased over a period of time. Through this implementation phase the redeployment of staff remains HMRC's highest priority.

Child Trust Fund: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust vouchers have been issued to residents of Hemel Hempstead constituency; and what his estimate is of the total monetary value of those accounts. [283669]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs does not have data on the value of child trust funds at constituency level.

Finance: Dairy Farmers of Britain

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has given consideration to underwriting the May milk cheques lost by members of Dairy Farmers of Britain; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of doing so. [281893]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The receivers (PwC) have estimated that the total financial costs to farmers who were members and former members of Dairy Farmers of Britain on 3 June are around £83 million.

The proportion of this figure which arises from the failure to pay the May milk cheques is a matter for the receiver.

Government have considered whether we can compensate farmers, but do not plan to do so.

Private Finance Initiative: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the efficiency of schemes under the private finance initiative in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [283489]

Ian Pearson: All local authority PFI projects seeking PFI credits are subject to an assessment by the Projects Review Group (PRG), which is chaired by HM Treasury.

Minutes of the PRG meetings held in 2008 and 2009 can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk7ppp_projectreview_group.htm

A list of all signed PFI projects can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average age of council tax benefit applicants in the last 12 months. [283457]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department for Work and Pensions holds claimant information rather than applicant information.

The most recent available information is that the average age of claimants of council tax benefit in May 2004 was 58.

Source:

This figure is derived from the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System annual 1 per cent. sample taken in May 2004.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of her Department's agencies have submitted bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers. [283031]

Jim Knight: Neither DWP nor any of its agencies have submitted bids for efficiency savings to be used for pay improvements in 2009 pay offers.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress her Department has made in opening its procurement process to small and medium-sized enterprises. [282505]

Jim Knight: DWP commercial and procurement teams use the Sustainable Procurement Risk Assessment Methodology (SPRAM) as part of their activities and the use of small and medium-sized enterprises is covered within this procedure.

The Department benefits from a diverse market and choice of supply. The Department fully supports and follows procurement rules which are based on the concepts of transparency and non discrimination.

DWP is committed to "competitive neutrality" among its suppliers and to public sector best practice and acts in accordance with OGC standards. Where contract opportunities are to be competed they are appropriately advertised to the market and fair competition is used to select the most suitable solution and value for money obtained for the tax payer.

Where practical, requirements are packaged to make them more attractive to smaller suppliers. This can include dividing requirements into lots, allowing regional rather than national provision or, where this is not practical, by encouraging primary contractors to use smaller and medium-sized enterprises as sub contractors.

In 2007-08 we had 31 SME suppliers in our top 200 (15.5 per cent.) who attracted a spend of £158.5 million (4.7 per cent.).

In 2008-09 we had 72 SME suppliers in our top 200 (36.0 per cent.) who attracted a spend of £251.5 million (7.0 per cent.).

Therefore in 2008-09 the number of SME suppliers in our top 200 increased by 41 (132 per cent.) and their spend increased by £93 million (58.6 per cent.).

Employment Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the caseload under Jobcentre Plus Support contracts in the next 12 months. [271707]

Jim Knight: There are no direct caseload figures for the Jobcentre Plus support contract.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many commercial employment providers have signed up to participate in the delivery of help for newly unemployed and executive Jobcentre Plus customers. [271708]

Jim Knight: As part of the Government's response to the economic downturn the DWP has put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers, including a service for professionals and executives.

This new service was introduced nationally from 6 April 2009, and currently a database of 316 suitable providers has been developed from which individual customers can select the organisation best able to meet their needs.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether free telephones are available for the use of Jobcentre Plus customers in *(a)* Ormskirk jobcentre, *(b)* Southport jobcentre and *(c)* each jobcentre in Liverpool. [283604]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether free telephones are available for the use of Jobcentre Plus customers in Ormskirk Jobcentre, Southport Jobcentre and each jobcentre in Liverpool. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is constantly reviewing services to ensure that we provide the best possible standard of service to our customers. An increasing amount of face-to-face customer contact is on an appointment basis and information on job vacancies is readily available by telephone and the Internet. This enables staff in our offices to focus on those customers in greatest need of support to return to work.

All Jobcentre Plus offices, including those in Ormskirk, Southport and Liverpool, have customer access phones which are available for our customers to use free of charge. They are available primarily for customers who do not have alternative means of contact, who do not have a telephone at home or a mobile phone.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate her Department has made of the average distance between the home of a jobseeker's allowance claimant and the nearest Jobcentre Plus office; and if she will make a statement. [272701]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent estimate his Department has made of the average distance between the home of a jobseeker's allowance claimant and the nearest Jobcentre Plus office; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a large network of offices with a wide and constantly changing customer base. These factors preclude an accurate assessment being made in relation to an average distance between the home of a jobseeker's allowance claimant and the nearest Jobcentre Plus office.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors constantly review their service delivery plans to ensure optimum provision of service for all customers, for every Jobcentre Plus District. This is especially important in the context of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years. In addition to our network of modernised Jobcentres we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. That is particularly important in locations where maintaining a Jobcentre could not be justified. Typically such services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres or on Local Authority premises or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work Providers.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have more than half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to remove restrictions on access to work-related training for jobseeker's allowance claimants. [282605]

Jim Knight: We recognise that for some people lack of skills can hamper their entry into work and we actively support jobseekers in gaining the necessary skills.

Jobseekers can take part in part-time training at any point in their claim as long as it is for less than 16 hours per week, and may also undertake two weeks of full-time training within a 12-month period. In both cases, customers remain on jobseeker's allowance. This training could be with a range of learning providers, including further education colleges and provision arranged through the devolved Administrations' vocational training programmes.

Jobseeker's allowance customers must be available for and actively seeking work as their main activity and must be prepared to take up the offer of a job at short notice. However, within certain parameters, customers can undertake full-time training if this is needed in order to gain the necessary skills to enter employment. Customers undertaking full-time training are transferred to a training allowance, to which the 16-hour study rule does not apply.

Financial support for other full-time students is the responsibility of the education sector.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 3 July 2009

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BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps the Government plan to take to ensure universal availability of broadband access in the UK; [illegible]

(2) what steps he plans to take to assist households in the UK which cannot access broadband services. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: The Digital Britain Final Report, published on 16 June, set out the Government's plans to provide a Universal Service Commitment for broadband at a speed of 2Mbps, and the Government will invest approximately £200 million of public funds to support this. The Government will establish an arm's length body, the Network Design and Procurement Group, who will be responsible for the procurement and delivery of this commitment.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated for the roll-out of high-speed broadband in the next three years. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not allocated central funding for expansion of high-speed broadband in the next three years. The Digital Britain Final Report, published on 16 June, set out the Government's plans to ensure the delivery of high-speed broadband which includes a 50p levy per month on all fixed telephone lines to create a Next General Fund to ensure that high speed broadband reaches the Final third of the country that the market alone will not deliver to.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* gross domestic product per capita and *(b)* average personal income of connecting all rural households to broadband internet at a speed of at least 2Mbps in each of the next five years. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 June 2009]*: Rural households connected to broadband speeds of at least 2Mbps can expect to benefit from improved access to public and government services offered online. They will also benefit from the opportunity to access a wider range of goods and services than before, some of which may not be available in the high street, and at potentially lower prices. Further, connection to 2Mbps broadband will help to reduce the risk to rural households of social exclusion.

The Department is committed to publishing a full impact assessment containing estimates of the expected costs and benefits once the procurement process has taken place.

Broadband: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies offered high-speed broadband services to households in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997. [278579]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not hold records in regard to the number of companies which offer high-speed broadband services in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the Eastern region in each year since 1997.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England since 1997. [278580]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not allocated central funding for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the Eastern region since 1997.

As the hon. Member may already be aware, in the Budget on 22 April the Chancellor confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering a universal service for broadband at a speed of 2 megabits per second, by no later than 2012. In the Digital Britain report, we will set out in greater detail our plan of how the universal service commitment might work and we will be publishing the report very shortly.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to ensure competition among high-speed broadband providers in Mid Bedfordshire. [278581]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no recent steps to ensure competitiveness among high-speed broadband providers specifically in Mid Bedfordshire. However, through Ofcom, the Government have ensured that the majority of consumers across the country benefit from competition in the broadband market by ensuring wholesale access to the BT Openreach network, and the Local Loop Unbundling of BT Exchanges.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many households in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England had access to high-speed broadband services in each year since 1997. [278608]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in both the Libraries of the House.

Broadband: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have had access to high-speed broadband services in each year since 1997. [279336]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies offered high-speed broadband services to households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279338]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not hold records in regard to the numbers of companies which offer high speed broadband services in Essex and Castle Point in each year since 1997.

Broadband: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies offered high-speed broadband services to households in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278895]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not hold records in regard to the number of companies which offer high-speed broadband usage in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997.

Broadband: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of households in Milton Keynes which do not have access to high-speed broadband. [279659]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Government has allocated for expansion of high-speed broadband usage in Milton Keynes. [279738]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not allocated central funding for expansion of high-speed broadband to Milton Keynes. The Digital Britain Final Report, published on 16 June, set out the Government's plans to ensure the delivery of high-speed broadband which includes a 50p levy per month on all fixed telephone lines to create a Next Generation Fund to ensure that high-speed broadband reaches the final third of the country that the market alone will not deliver to.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people living in remote rural areas who have access to broadband. [279649]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses taking out loans under the *(a)* Working Capital and *(b)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in the next 12 months; [252243]

(2) how many loans he estimates will be taken out under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme in the next 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the average value of such loans. [252245]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee, Capital for Enterprise Fund and the Working Capital Scheme were announced under the Real Help with Finance package on 14 January.

Since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has nearly £495 million of eligible applications from 4,420 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

With respect to £75 million "Capital for Enterprise" equity scheme the appointed fund managers have received serious proposals seeking a total of around £100 million of investment.

The appointed fund managers have so far made offers totalling nearly £11 million to eight businesses. Three businesses have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £2.4 million. The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the further proposals that have been put forward.

The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Southend-on-Sea have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance from the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and (ii) Capital for Enterprise Fund in 2009; and how much funding has been provided to businesses in Southend-on-Sea under each such scheme in 2009 to date. [280979]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department records information on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on a regional basis, including the East of England. It does not hold the information at the level requested and it could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Set out in the tables is the information for East of England since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on 14 January:

	Enterprise Finance Guarantee	
	Number	*Value (£ million)*
Eligible Applications	427	38
Loans Offered	397	35.4
Loans drawn	258	24.7

	Capital for Enterprise Fund
Number of inquiries	44
Investment required (£ million)	38.5
Number of inquiries at advanced stage of processing	2
Value of inquiries under consideration (£ million)	4.0

The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the proposals that have been put forward.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Peterborough have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance from the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme and (ii) Capital for Enterprise Fund in 2009; and how much funding has been provided to businesses in Peterborough under each such scheme in 2009. [281719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department records information on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on a regional basis, including the East of England. It does not hold the information at the level you request and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Set out in the following tables is the information for East of England since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Capital for Enterprise Fund on 14 January:

	Enterprise Finance Guarantee	
	Number	*Value (£ million)*
Eligible applications	427	38
Loans offered	397	35.4
Loans drawn	258	24.7

	Capital for Enterprise Fund
Number of inquiries	44
Investment required (£ million)	38.5
Number of inquiries at advanced stage of processing	2
Value of inquiries under consideration (£ million)	4.0

The fund managers are continuing due diligence on the proposals that have been put forward.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what car journeys were taken by the Secretary of State in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273970]

Mr. McFadden: For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Wednesday 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Credit: Insurance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* accepted for the credit insurance scheme announced in Budget 2009. [280728]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Take-up is demand-led as it depends on the number of credit limit reductions in the private sector. We publish information on scheme take-up on a monthly basis. In May, the first month in which the scheme was operational, there were 13 policies written, to a value of £718,000.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279519]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently has no contracts with the think-tank Demos.

Departmental Business Plans

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish a business plan for his Department. [279432]

Mr. McFadden: The publication process for a BIS business plan has not yet been agreed. Decisions will be taken over the summer to fully integrate and align priorities for the new Department, which will then be set out in a new business plan document.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for administrative operations by his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281019]

Mr. McFadden: For the period 2006-07 the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for admin operations was 393 tonnes equivalent to 0.12 tonnes per full-time member of staff.

For the period 2007-08 the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for admin operations was 349 tonnes equivalent to 0.10 tonnes per full-time member of staff.

These figures are for the main Department only and do not include the Department's agencies.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281020]

Mr. McFadden: For the period 2006-07 the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel was 4,469 tonnes equivalent to 1.4 tonnes per full-time member of staff.

For the period 2007-08 the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel was 5,933 tonnes equivalent to 1.7 tonnes per full-time member of staff.

These figures are for the main Department only and do not include the Department's agencies.

Departmental Correspondence

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of letters to his Department's predecessor from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days from the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280457]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278741]

Mr. McFadden: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008 Departments are required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in their annual resource accounts.

The Department for Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has reported on personal data breaches in the 2007-08 annual resource account and this can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page47093.html

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. I am however, pleased to report that there were no losses of personal protected data reported to Information Commissioners Office in 2008-09.

Departmental Electricity

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department and its predecessors which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280941]

Mr. McFadden: I would refer the hon. Member to the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reports in which central Government Departments publicly reported on the data requested. The most recent report can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/.

Departmental Expenditure

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total budget of his Department is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the following four years. [279276]

Mr. McFadden: The creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills brings together the estimates for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are available in the supplementary budgetary information (SBI). The summation of the resource budget for DIUS and BERR is £19.9 billion for 2009-10 and £20.0 billion for 2010-11. The summation of the capital budget for DIUS and BERR is £8.3 billion for 2009-10 and £7.2 billion for 2010-11. Budgets beyond 2010-11 have not yet been determined.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing his Department following the recent machinery of Government changes. [279431]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are ongoing and the processes will take some time to complete. Costs of establishing the new Department will be published as a note to the annual report and accounts in 2010.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of establishing his Department is. [279278]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have not been finalised and the processes will take some time to complete. Costs of establishing the new Department will be published as a note to the annual report and accounts in 2010.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the domain name *(a)* www.berr.gov.uk, *(b)* www.dius.gov.uk and *(c)* www.bis.gov.uk was registered. [280777]

Mr. McFadden: The domains in question were registered on the following dates:

www.berr.gov.uk—29 June 2007
www.dius.gov.uk—27 June 2007
www.bis.gov.uk—11 June 2009

Departmental Marketing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on marketing itself during its existence. [280664]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills brought together the science, innovation, higher and further education agendas together for the first time.

In order to promote the new Department, it spent a total of £171,441. This included two events for stakeholders and delivery partners, a leaflet to explain the training offer for businesses and the inclusions of DIUS stands and publicity at key events for employers and universities.

In addition the Department spent £953,911 on the creation of a new website. This included the design of both an initial website launched shortly after the creation of the Department and a later improved version. This total covers the purchase of hosting and content management system as well as project management and content migration (i.e. staff) costs.

As well as promoting the Department these activities were also used to inform employers and individuals of the support services it funds to help them. These continue to be managed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Departmental Marketing

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department *(a)* has spent to date and *(b)* plans to spend on its (i) signage, (ii) websites, (iii) letterheads and (iv) other branding in 2009-10. [279277]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are ongoing and the processes will take some time to complete. Costs of establishing the new Department will be published as a note to the Annual Report and Accounts in 2010.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on event management services in each of the last three years; and whether any such services were supplied by external providers. [274962]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Central financial records indicate that the following was spent by the former BERR on events management, including spend with external providers:

	£
2008-09	1,587,402.08
2007-08	4,064,306.91
2006-07	1,355,389.54

These figures are taken from the Department's finance system and may cover a wider range of expenditure than requested in the question.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Departmental Report for 2009 to be published. [281295]

Mr. McFadden: We expect that the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Departmental Annual Report will be published in early July. DIUS's Departmental Annual Report was originally due to be published on 12 June. Following the Machinery of Government changes on 5 June, and in consultation with HM Treasury, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills decided to delay publication so that minor redrafting could be undertaken to reflect those changes.

Departmental Publicity

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of rebranding necessitated by the creation of his Department; and under what budgetary heading he expects such expenditure to be incurred. [279831]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are ongoing and the processes will take some time to complete. Costs of establishing the new Department will be published as a note to the Annual Report and Accounts in 2010.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste his Department and its predecessors recycled in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [281018]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reports in which central Government Departments publicly reported on the data requested. The most recent report can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/.

Departmental Reorganisation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of merging the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to form his Department. [280648]

Mr. McFadden: The Machinery of Government changes of 5 June 2009 announced the creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) through the merger of the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

It is not possible at this stage to give an estimate of the costs involved in establishing the new Department; however, all costs will be covered from the existing budgets of the two former Departments. There will be no new money available.

There will be costs covering re-branding, and some limited cost as senior officials and Ministers move to the former BERR building at 1 Victoria Street.

Some staff from the former DIUS already share a building managed by the former BERR, and the two have the same IT supplier. Over the longer term there will be opportunities to rationalise the estate and make savings.

The processes of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are ongoing and will take some time to complete.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of re-branding the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform as the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. [280785]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of setting up the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are ongoing and the processes will take some time to complete. The costs will be met from within existing resources. The costs of establishing the new Department will be published as a note to the Annual Report and Accounts in 2010.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure was incurred by his Department's predecessors on the establishment of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. [280788]

Mr. McFadden: The cost of setting up the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in June 2007 was met within the existing departmental budgets of the former Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the former Department for Trade and Industry.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what committees the Secretary of State chairs; and if he will make a statement. [280166]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State chairs MISC 33 (the Ministerial Committee on the Post Office network). A revised Cabinet Committee list will be published shortly.

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which Minister in his Department will take over responsibility for the Digital Britain agenda from Lord Carter of Barnes; and if he will make a statement. [281313]

Mr. McFadden: This will be decided in due course.

Digital Broadcasting

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to recommendation 57 on page 16 of the Digital Britain White Paper, what assistance his Department will provide to households who are unable to meet the 50 pence per month charge to be levied on fixed lines as payment for the Next Generation Fund and who are not on a social telephony scheme. [281465]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* We have recognised that those on the lowest incomes might have difficulty paying the fixed line levy and that is why we have confirmed that those on social telephony schemes will be exempt. The social telephony schemes are available to those on income support, income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance (income-rated) or Guaranteed Pensions Credit and should be an accurate indication of ability to pay. We have no plans for additional exemptions from the levy.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the annual revenue to the public purse of the proposed levy of 50 pence per month on each fixed copper line proposed in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281763]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* In the Digital Britain report, the Government estimated that a supplement of 50p per month can be expected to raise £150 million-£175 million a year for the Next Generation Fund.

Digital Technology: Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public purse was of hosting the Digital Britain Summit on 17 April 2009. [274161]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* As we set out in the Interim Digital Britain report we have held a number of summits and public meetings. The total cost to the Government of holding events in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast was £59,798. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform contributed £34,507.

Employment Agencies: Conditions of Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employment agencies have been found by a court to have been in breach of the law in respect of allegations first made through the Pay and Work Rights helpline in each of the last 12 months. [280670]

Mr. McFadden: The Pay and Work Rights helpline was launched on 18 May 2009. No prosecutions of employment agencies have been taken forward in respect of a complaint received by the new helpline yet.

Successful prosecutions of employment agencies were secured in January and June 2009 as a result of complaints made to the Employment Agency Standards (EAS) helpline before its transfer.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward proposals for Government support for trade credit insurance for exports in line with those for domestic trade; [273228]

(2) what steps are being taken by the Export Credits Guarantee Department to provide Government support for short-term trade finance for exports. [273230]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 13 May 2009]*: Since the start of 2009, the Government have introduced a number of initiatives which will provide real help to exporters, as well as other businesses, during the current economic downturn. These have included the Working Capital Scheme, and ECGD is currently consulting on proposals for a Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme. The Government are considering other measures to provide real help to UK exporters, including a possible export trade credit insurance scheme along the lines of that announced for domestic business in the Budget which will address the cash flow, credit and investment needs of businesses.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of those resident in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Peterborough, *(d)* the East of England region, *(e)* Huntingdonshire and (f) England entered university in each of the last 10 years. [283418]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not collect data on the number of people resident in a particular area who are not in higher education. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate what proportion of people resident in North West Cambridgeshire constituency, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, the East of England, or Huntingdonshire entered university in each of the last 10 years.

The numbers of entrants to higher education from North West Cambridgeshire constituency, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, the East of England, Huntingdonshire and England, in each of the last 10 years, are shown as an alternative in the tables.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Entrants[1] from North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency[2], Cambridgeshire local authority[2] and Peterborough local authority[2] to UK higher education institutions academic years 1998-99 to 2007-08

Academic year	*North West Cambridgeshire*	*Cambridgeshire*	*Peterborough*
1998-99	795	5,775	1,215
1999-2000	810	5,945	1,175
2000-01	725	5,555	1,120
2001-02	885	6,040	1,245
2002-03	865	6,045	1,195
2003-04	930	6,100	1,280
2004-05	955	6,365	1,395
2005-06	955	6,305	1,300
2006-07	875	6,225	1,205
2007-08	1,035	5,530	1,395

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Parliamentary constituency and local authority are defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Entrants[1] from the East of England government region[2], Huntingdonshire census district[2] and England to UK higher education institutions academic years 1998-99 to 2007-08

Academic year	*East of England*	*Huntingdonshire*	*England*
1998-99	47,510	1,415	516,930
1999-2000	48,655	1,505	515,565
2000-01	48,740	1,350	516,750
2001-02	52,035	1,535	548,000
2002-03	52,915	1,525	570,695
2003-04	54,695	1,555	578,790
2004-05	54,295	1,505	579,200
2005-06	55,295	1,540	598,745
2006-07	52,905	1,575	575,085
2007-08	55,590	1,590	589,055

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Government region and census district are defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published 'Young participation in higher education' in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by parliamentary constituency, local education authority and region for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first-time entrants to higher education courses, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 43 per cent. in 2007-08.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce levels of anti-Semitism in universities; what recent discussions Ministers and officials in his

Department have had on this issue; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [283709]

Mr. Lammy: This Department has set up a group on anti-Semitism and Higher Education to facilitate discussions between the Jewish community and higher education stakeholders, which I chair. We see this group as playing an important role in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education. The first meeting took place in April and resulted in practical actions to be taken forward by higher education stakeholders and Jewish Community representatives working collaboratively.

London Development Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each London Development Agency office in each of the last five years. [280613]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The London Development Agency is primarily accountable to the Mayor of London, and the Government do not collect detailed information on its organisational structure.

Ministerial Responsibility

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of Lord Davies of Abersoch's working time as a Minister is spent on matters relating to his Department. [279803]

Mr. McFadden: Lord Davies of Abersoch is the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business. He reports jointly to the Business Secretary and Foreign Secretary in respect of UK Trade and Investment, but this is not a matter of dividing time between two Departments, as UK T&I is a joint operation.

Network Design and Procurement Group

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he proposes to make for the recruitment of the chief executive officer of the Network Design and Procurement Group announced in the Digital Britain White Paper; and what the salary scale for the post will be. [281751]

Mr. McFadden: As set out in the Digital Britain report, the Government will by the end of October this year, seek to recruit a CEO for the Network Design and Procurement Group with network, procurement, delivery and management skills. The recruitment will follow standard procedures for public appointments.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he will use to select members of the Network Design and Procurement Group announced in the Digital Britain White Paper; and when he expects the appointment process to be complete. [281762]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* Recruitment of the CEO for the Network Design and Procurement Group is the priority and an important role for the CEO will be to advise on and recruit people for the group with the skills required to deliver the Universal Service Commitment. I hope that the appointment process will be complete during the autumn.

Phorm

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish his Department's replies to the European Communications Commissioner's letters of 30 June 2008, 6 October 2008 and January 2009 on Phorm. [277775]

Mr. McFadden: It is not the Government's policy to publish such correspondence. Publication of these letters has already been sought by members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Each request has been refused, and this position has not changed.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the compliance with UK and EU legislation of the use of Phorm's targeted online advertising technology by internet service providers. [280982]

Mr. McFadden: In April 2008, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issued a statement on the use of Phorm under UK law:

> http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/pressreleases/2008/new_phorm_statement_040408.pdf.

A further Government statement was issued on 16 September 2008 (as follows).

Since the latter statement was released, neither this Department nor its predecessor Departments have received any further representations on the compliance of Phorm's technology.

The Government statement of September 2008 was as follows:

> The UK is committed to providing a high level of consumer protection. We take our community obligations very seriously especially in the area of data protection and e-privacy. The possible future use of Phorm technology has raised material concerns in this area and the UK authorities are working to ensure that if it is introduced into the market for internet based advertising services, this is done in a lawful, appropriate and transparent fashion.
>
> After conducting its inquiries with Phorm the UK authorities consider that Phorm's products are capable of being operated in this fashion on the following basis:
>
> the user profiling occurs with the knowledge and agreement of the customer;
>
> the profile is based on a unique ID allocated at random which means that there is no need to know the identity of the individual users;
>
> Phorm does not keep a record of the actual sites visited;
>
> search terms used by the user and the advertising categories exclude certain sensitive terms and have been widely drawn so as not to reveal the identity of the user;
>
> Phorm does not have nor want information which would enable it to link a user ID and profile to a living individual;
>
> users will be presented with an unavoidable statement about the product and asked to exercise a choice about whether to be involved; and

users will be able to easily access information on how to change their mind at any point and are free to opt in or out of the scheme.

Future developments involving Phorm will be closely scrutinised and monitored by the enforcement authorities.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of the Post Bank initiative. [282620]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. currently plays a vital role providing access to financial services through its national network of around 11,500 branches. It already offers an extensive range of financial services products including savings, insurance, mortgages, credit cards, and over 1,600 free-to-use cash machines providing further access to cash across the network.

We are keen for Post Office Ltd. to increase its financial services offering using its unrivalled network to put a wider range of services within reasonable reach of the whole UK population.

Post Offices: Closures

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of community-run post offices which have closed in each year since 1997. [281890]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have, therefore, asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regeneration: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding South West Regional Development Agency has allocated to the regeneration of Shelley Manor in Bournemouth in each of the next three years; when such funds will be delivered to the regeneration project; and if he will make a statement. [281638]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* South West of England Regional Development Agency has no funding allocated for the regeneration of Shelley Manor, Bournemouth.

Regional Development Agencies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what regional strategies each regional development agency is participating in. [277675]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Each regional development agency (except the London Development Agency—see table) participates in two statutory over-arching strategies: the regional economic strategy (RES) and the regional spatial strategy. The aim of the RES is to improve economic performance and enhance regional competitiveness, addressing market failures that prevent sustainable economic development, regeneration and business growth. It is drawn up and kept under review by the RDA.

The RSS (which incorporates a regional transport strategy) provides a spatial framework to inform the preparation of land-use programmes. It takes into account provision for new housing; priorities for the environment; transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals extraction and waste treatment and disposal.

RDAs may also lead the development of non-statutory strategies with regional partners. Examples of these are listed in the table.

Following the Government's 2007 Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration, RDAs are working with local authorities to prepare development of integrated regional strategies, replacing the current regional economic strategy and regional spatial strategy. The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Bill will enact this. The London Development Agency, working with the GLA, has its own arrangements in this matter.

The following table lists non-statutory strategies by region:

RDA	*Regional strategies*
AWM	Examples of external strategies that help deliver the RES are shown as follows. These are augmented by a series of tactical internal strategies and plans which relate to AWM's main areas of responsibility.
	Regional Marketing Strategic Framework
	International Business Action Plan
	Skills Action Plan
	West Midlands Manufacturing Support Strategy
	Regional Visitor Economy Strategy
EEDA	Regional Business Support Strategy
	Regional Women's Enterprise Strategy
	Regional Higher-level Skills Strategy
	Regional Strategic Framework for Manufacturing 2007-12
	Regional Adult Skills and Employment Strategy
	Regional Social Strategy
Emda	Underpinning the RES and RSS are a number of sector based strategies and action plans that contain the activities required to implement the vision and aims of the two statutory strategies:
	East Midlands Innovation Strategy and Action Plan 2007-11
	East Midlands Business Support Strategy 2008-11
	East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-10
	Employment Skills and Productivity Partnership Action Plan
	Regional Energy Strategy
	Regional Transport Strategy

RDA	*Regional strategies*
LDA	As part of London's unique governance arrangements, the Mayor of London produces a number of statutory and non statutory strategies, including the London Plan, the Mayor's Transport Strategy and the Mayor's Economic Development Strategy. As a functional body of the Greater London Authority, the London Development Agency is involved to varying degrees in the development and delivery of the majority of these strategies.
NWDA	NW Regional Housing Strategy
ONE	ONE and the region's local authorities have developed action plans to take forward the delivery of the RES and the Regional Spatial Strategy. ONE has worked with partners to develop the following: Regional Employment and Skills Strategy Regional Enterprise Strategy Regional Innovation Strategy Regional International Trade Strategy Regional Digital Strategy Regional Housing Strategy North East Environment Strategy North East Tourism Strategy Additionally, ONE has developed 'mini' strategies in relation to low carbon vehicles, off-shore wind power and printable plastic technologies in response to the Government's New Industry, New Jobs agenda.
SEEDA	Partner organisation sector based strategies which SEEDA participates in include two South East NHS Trust strategies for action on health, to achieve a healthy work force best placed to deliver smart growth.
SWERDA	Regional Skills Strategy Regional Enterprise Strategy Regional Innovation Strategy South West International Trade Strategy
YF	In addition to delivering the Regional Economic Strategy and the Integrated Regional Strategy that will replace it, Yorkshire Forward works with partners to join up other strategies to the RES in the interests of integration and effectiveness. These are listed as follows: Regional Innovation Strategy Regional Visitor Economy Strategy Regional Housing Strategy Regional Cultural Strategy Regional Major Events Strategy Yorkshire Gold Strategy (relating to the 2012 Olympics) Regional Forestry Strategy

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent changes there have been to the investment budgets of each regional development agency. [279897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The RDAs' investment budgets are their Capital budgets. Changes were made to the RDAs' Capital budgets to take account of the following Government initiatives:

HomeBuy Direct: RDAs' contribution was £25 million (2009-10);

Fiscal Stimulus: RDAs bringing forward £100 million of their regeneration projects from 2010-11 to 2009-10; and

Capital for Enterprise Fund: RDAs' contribution of £10 million in 2009-10.

The following table shows how individual RDA Capital budgets, given to them as indicative allocation following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 Settlement, were affected in 2009-10 by the above initiatives. All figures are in £ million.

	2009-10 Indicative Allocation	
RDA	*Capital Budgets (£ million)*	*Change (£ million)*
Advantage West Midlands	136	16
East of England Development Agency	57	4
East Midlands Development Agency	75	1
London Development Agency	186	-6
North West Development Agency	191	14
One North East	124	6
South East England Development Agency	68	4
South West Regional Development Agency	70	7
Yorkshire Forward	148	18

Regional Development Agencies: Mass Media

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations have provided media monitoring services to *(a)* each of the regional development agencies and *(b)* the national secretariat to the agencies in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of her Department's contract with each such organisation. [278598]

Mr. McFadden: The table shows organisations that have provided media monitoring services to RDAs and the RDA National Secretariat in the last three years.

RDA	*Media monitoring services*	*Cost (£)*
2008-09		
AWM	Haven Research	27,952
EEDA	TNS; EDS Media (now Precise)	9,000
EMDA	EDS Media (now Precise)	29,004
LDA[1]	Speedex, Newsping	18,000
NWDA	Cision	21,824
ONE	EDS Media (now Precise)	35,291
SEEDA	Cision, Meltwater, Durrants, Newsping, Precise	19,884
SWRDA	TNS; Durrants	33,036
YF	TNS; EDS Media (now Precise)	24,876
RDA Secretariat	Meltwater	4,738
2007-08		
AWM	Haven Research	20,467
EEDA	Cision; Magenta; Metrica	20,000
EMDA	EDS Media (now Precise)	19,999
LDA[1]	Speedex, Newsping	9,210

RDA	*Media monitoring services*	*Cost (£)*
NWDA	Cision	14,441
ONE	TNS; Meltwater	32,154
SEEDA	Cision, Meltwater, Durrants, Newsping, Precise	26,811
SWRDA	TNS; Durrants; Newsping	36, 544
YF	TNS; EDS Media (now Precise)	21,385
RDA Secretariat	Meltwater	4,353
2006-07		
AWM	Haven Research	15,807
EEDA	Cision; Magenta	19,000
EMDA	Romeike	41,472
LDA[1]	Speedex, Newsping	5,437
NWDA	Cision	21,864
ONE	TNS; Meltwater	18,864
SEEDA	Cision, Meltwater, Durrants, Newsping, Precise	24,819
SWRDA	TNS; Durrants; Newsping	27,152
YF	TNS; EDS Media (now Precise)	30,014
RDA Secretariat	Meltwater	3,520

[1] During the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 the LDA also made an annual contribution towards the GLA Group In-House cuttings service of approximately £75,000 per annum.

Rover Group

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received the report of the inspectors investigating MG Rover. [283495]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The inspectors delivered their report on 11 June 2009. It will be for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to consider its findings and next steps.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280959]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families make[illegible] report to the Sustainable Development Comm[illegible] carbon dioxide emissions from offices as part of their returns for the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

From the 2007 and 2008 SDiG reports—available in full under 'Publications' at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/

—carbon dioxide emissions for the office estate was reported as *(a)* 10,321 tonnes in 2006-07 and *(b)* 12,316 tonnes in 2007-08 which equated to (aii) 1.705 tonnes per full-time equivalent and (bii) 1.789 tonnes per full-time equivalent.

Grants for Education Support and Training

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many families were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* awarded grants under the Home Access Grant scheme in the (i) Oldham and (ii) Suffolk pilot area. [283987]

Mr. Iain Wright: The answer to the question is set out in the following table.

	Suffolk	*Oldham*	*Total*
(a) Estimate eligible population (number)	8,449	4,758	13,207
(b) Grants issued (number)	7,545	4,115	11,660
Percentage of estimated eligible learners served	89	86	88

Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who are permanently excluded from a mainstream maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school were placed in a (i) maintained school and (ii) pupil referral unit in the most recent year for which figures are available. [284031]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 50W, on pupil exclusions, how many of the exclusions were from *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools. [284244]

Mr. Coaker: This information is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions three or more times, England 2006-07, by local authority area, by Government office region in England

	Maintained primary schools	*State-funded secondary schools*	*Special schools*	*Total*
England	4,850	38,590	2,130	45,570
North East	160	1,640	110	1,910
Darlington	20	190	10	220
Durham	50	390	30	470
Gateshead	10	60	*	80
Hartlepool	*	40	0	40
Middlesbrough	10	160	*	170
Newcastle upon Tyne	10	150	*	160
North Tyneside	10	60	10	80
Northumberland	20	210	10	240
Redcar and Cleveland	10	110	10	130

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]*: Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions three or more times, England 2006-07, by local authority area, by Government office region in England*

	Maintained primary schools	*State-funded secondary schools*	*Special schools*	*Total*
South Tyneside	0	120	0	120
Stockton-on-Tees	10	90	20	110
Sunderland	20	70	10	100
North West	560	5,330	380	6,260
Blackburn with Darwen	10	90	*	110
Blackpool	30	140	0	170
Bolton	40	300	*	340
Bury	10	150	*	160
Cheshire	70	590	50	720
Cumbria	30	400	*	430
Halton	10	60	*	60
Knowsley	*	90	10	100
Lancashire	70	830	70	980
Liverpool	30	150	10	190
Manchester	80	420	30	530
Oldham	20	210	*	230
Rochdale	20	190	10	220
Salford	20	150	20	190
Sefton	10	30	10	40
St. Helen's	20	100	*	120
Stockport	10	310	30	350
Tameside	30	260	30	310
Trafford	10	130	10	150
Warrington	10	180	20	210
Wigan	20	300	50	370
Wirral	20	260	30	300
Yorkshire and the Humber	550	5,160	160	5,870
Barnsley	50	150	0	190
Bradford	60	530	*	590
Calderdale	30	180	0	210
Doncaster	20	430	10	460
East Riding of Yorkshire	40	460	*	510
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	40	150	10	200
Kirklees	60	380	60	490
Leeds	40	770	30	830
North East Lincolnshire	20	150	0	170
North Lincolnshire	30	120	10	160
North Yorkshire	40	340	10	380
Rotherham	30	280	10	320
Sheffield	50	630	10	690
Wakefield	30	480	20	530
York	30	120	*	150
East Midlands	430	3,080	100	3,610
Derby	30	130	10	160
Derbyshire	130	440	40	600
Leicester	40	240	10	300
Leicestershire	40	510	10	550
Lincolnshire	50	220	10	280
Northamptonshire	60	650	20	720
Nottingham	30	200	*	240
Nottinghamshire	60	690	*	750
Rutland	*	10	0	10
West Midlands	540	3,780	240	4,570
Birmingham	210	970	60	1,240
Coventry	20	210	20	250
Dudley	20	300	*	320
Herefordshire	10	160	*	170
Sandwell	30	190	*	230
Shropshire	10	190	10	200
Solihull	20	180	20	210
Staffordshire	40	450	20	500
Stoke-on-Trent	20	140	20	170
Telford and Wrekin	40	180	10	230
Walsall	30	170	10	210
Warwickshire	50	320	10	380
Wolverhampton	10	120	30	170
Worcestershire	30	220	20	270
East of England	500	4,180	160	4,850
Bedfordshire	20	260	10	300
Cambridgeshire	40	240	*	270
Essex	170	1,330	40	1,540
Hertfordshire	80	790	70	950
Luton	20	70	0	90
Norfolk	80	460	10	550
Peterborough	*	110	0	120
Southend-on-Sea	10	110	20	140
Suffolk	50	640	*	700
Thurrock	20	180	*	200
London	650	3,990	350	4,980
Inner London	290	1,310	110	1,700
Camden	30	100	10	130
City of London	0	0	0	0
Hackney	20	80	*	100
Hammersmith and Fulham	30	50	*	70
Haringey	20	160	0	170
Islington	20	50	*	70
Kensington and Chelsea	*	30	*	30
Lambeth	30	170	30	230
Lewisham	20	100	*	120
Newham	30	190	20	240
Southwark	60	110	10	180
Tower Hamlets	10	70	*	80

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions three or more times, England 2006-07, by local authority area, by Government office region in England

	Maintained primary schools	*State-funded secondary schools*	*Special schools*	*Total*
Wandsworth	20	110	30	160
Westminster	10	120	0	120
Outer London	360	2,680	240	3,280
Barking and Dagenham	20	70	0	100
Barnet	10	200	*	210
Bexley	*	120	20	140
Brent	30	140	10	180
Bromley	20	70	30	120
Croydon	20	90	40	150
Ealing	10	160	0	170
Enfield	20	190	10	220
Greenwich	80	260	40	370
Harrow	30	110	0	140
Havering	10	150	0	160
Hillingdon	20	230	*	260
Hounslow	10	130	10	140
Kingston upon Thames	20	40	0	60
Merton	10	150	20	180
Redbridge	20	150	30	190
Richmond upon Thames	*	50	*	50
Sutton	20	110	30	150
Waltham Forest	20	290	10	320
South East	920	7,450	330	8,690
Bracknell Forest	*	80	0	80
Brighton and Hove	50	270	10	340
Buckinghamshire	30	270	50	350
East Sussex	130	560	40	720
Hampshire	120	1,180	50	1,350
Isle of Wight	*	140	0	140
Kent	130	1,390	30	1,550
Medway	60	430	0	490
Milton Keynes	20	160	10	180
Oxfordshire	50	450	*	500
Portsmouth	60	190	20	270
Reading	20	40	10	70
Slough	10	30	*	50
Southampton	60	410	20	490
Surrey	70	920	50	1,050
West Berkshire	10	120	0	130
West Sussex	70	650	20	750
Windsor and Maidenhead	10	70	*	80
Wokingham	10	100	10	120
South West	530	3,980	300	4,820
Bath and North East Somerset	10	160	30	200
Bournemouth	30	80	*	100
Bristol, City of	130	330	60	510
Cornwall	40	220	*	260
Devon	60	740	20	820
Dorset	20	230	*	250
Gloucestershire	30	500	40	570
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	10	70	*	90
Plymouth	10	120	40	170
Poole	40	190	10	240
Somerset	50	500	40	590
South Gloucestershire	40	220	10	260
Swindon	20	170	40	220
Torbay	20	120	*	140
Wiltshire	40	350	10	400

* = less than 5.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs, academies and non-maintained special schools.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Schools Census

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's and its predecessor's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280546]

Mr. Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government spent the following on energy efficiency measures between 2007 and 2009:

	Investment (£)
2007-08	75,000
2008-09	95,000

Investment records prior to 2007 are not readily available.

Between April 2007 and March 2009, the Department reduced gas and electricity consumption by 41 per cent. and 27 per cent. in its main building, compared to 2006-07.

Prior to implementation, all energy efficiency projects are subject to a rigorous assessment of predicted carbon reduction and financial benefits, as well as consideration of alternative solutions. Post-implementation efficacy is based upon analysis of smart meter utility data. These data are fed into the Department's Energy Efficiency Action Plan to ensure an effective and structured approach to continued carbon reduction.

To date, the majority of the efficiency measures taken across the departmental estate have been relatively low or no cost. As many of these opportunities have now been realised future measures will increasingly focus on capital investment projects, such as upgrading heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department of press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283060]

Mr. Malik: All press office staff are press officers with the exception of speech writers. In the period since the Department was created in May 2006, there has been one speechwriter post at pay band 7 (grade 6) and one speechwriter post at pay band 6 (grade 7) in press office. The 2008-09 pay ranges are £43,836 to £57,110 for pay band 7 and £54,018 to £70,375 for pay band 6. Press office staff in the predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, were press officers.

Departmental Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department will reach the age of 65 by the year 2011. [283365]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 1 July 2009]*: 17 members of staff, in post on 30 June 2009, are due to reach their 65th birthday by the beginning of 2011. A further 14 reach this birthday during 2011. However, it is likely that at least some of these staff will no longer be working for the Department by then.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated to his core Department in real terms in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next three years. [284291]

Mr. Malik: CSR07 allocated budgets for the period to 2010-11. The net administration budget for the core Department for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is £167 million and £165 million respectively. Budgets beyond 2011-12 have yet to be agreed with the Treasury.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on official hospitality, in what format the intranet staff handbook is held. [283768]

Mr. Malik: The terms and conditions of employment that form our staff handbook are stored on the Department's intranet site as individual web pages.

Environment Protection: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* the Government Office for London and *(b)* his Department has given to (i) Capital Standards and (ii) the London Environment Directors' Network in each of the last three years; and for what purposes. [283779]

Mr. Malik: There is no record of any payment to these groups, by either the central Department or the Government Office for London, on the Department's accounting system.

Fire Service College: Recruitment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department and its agencies have allocated for the advertisement of non-executive director posts at the Fire Service College. [284000]

Mr. Malik: The Department has spent £9,895 plus VAT in respect of advertising costs associated with the current recruitment of a non-executive chair and a non-executive board member for the Fire Service College.

Fire Services: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 318W, on fire services, whether staff in the London Fire Control Room will be eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. [284017]

Mr. Malik: Staff in the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's new regional control centre will be eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Fires: Waste

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of refuse fires reported as having been deliberately set in the last 12 months. [283997]

Mr. Malik: The number of refuse fires believed to be deliberately set is not yet held centrally and so could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Data on refuse fires are calculated from aggregate monthly returns. These are limited to total number of refuse and refuse container fires attended by each Fire and Rescue Service. These data are shown in the table.

The recently implemented electronic Incident Recording System (IRS) records both the number and location of all incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services. The number and location of refuse fires reported as having been deliberately set will therefore be available, with the first data being for 2009-10.

Total refuse and refuse container fires, England, 2003-07[1]

FRS area	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]
England	152,461	119,430	114,307	100,577	100,335
Avon	3,583	2,507	2,136	1,613	1,409
Bedfordshire	1,332	1,074	990	863	911
Berkshire	1,323	986	869	796	831
Buckinghamshire	1,621	1,303	1,349	1,307	1,301
Cambridgeshire	1,233	1,065	1,056	1,136	941

Total refuse and refuse container fires, England, 2003-07¹

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007¹*
Cheshire	3,865	3,366	3,494	3,160	2,881
Cleveland	4,776	3,569	3,787	4,080	3,853
Cornwall	414	386	375	412	320
Cumbria	1,519	1,234	1,441	1,400	1,305
Derbyshire	1,586	1,297	1,161	1,351	1,230
Devon	1,794	1,617	1,619	1,597	1,459
Dorset	674	585	569	540	525
Durham	2,634	2,185	2,332	2,325	2,419
East Sussex	1,312	1,175	966	905	862
Gloucestershire	1,022	781	777	661	618
Greater London	18,883	14,275	14,097	12,095	12,478
Greater Manchester	14,237	10,847	11,078	10,343	10,451
Hampshire	3,405	3,025	2,646	2,720	2,512
Hereford and Worcester	1,024	721	667	721	621
Hertfordshire	1,981	1,627	1,409	1,311	1,197
Humberside	5,460	4,217	3,824	3,515	3,459
Isle of Wight	120	142	130	131	130
Isles of Scilly	6	1	0	5	0
Kent	3,836	3,199	2,978	2,481	2,126
Lancashire	6,349	4,574	4,324	4,260	4,362
Leicestershire	1,772	1,550	1,392	1,455	1,429
Lincolnshire	874	726	662	836	965
Merseyside	12,913	8,834	7,310	7,086	6,493
Norfolk	1,045	941	914	1,032	861
North Yorkshire	1,235	973	985	1,026	940
Northamptonshire	2,036	1,651	1,636	1,361	1,409
Northumberland	1,199	901	856	888	949
Nottinghamshire	2,786	2,111	2,126	2,080	1,983
Oxfordshire	678	602	575	483	353
Shropshire	1,037	827	854	787	784
Somerset	729	556	490	507	541
South Yorkshire	5,890	4,670	4,965	4,958	5,563
Staffordshire	2,704	2,335	2,355	2,272	2,327
Suffolk	846	787	689	782	713
Surrey	1,185	951	945	940	916
Tyne and Wear	7,869	6,306	5,408	6,035	6,050
Warwickshire	1,088	936	831	887	816
West Midlands	9,514	7,733	7,530	7,067	7,029
West Sussex	1,212	972	838	727	728
West Yorkshire	10,949	9,030	8,455	8,080	8,407
Wiltshire	713	588	557	553	518

¹ Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change

Source:

CLG

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision for redistribution mechanisms has been made in changes to the Housing Revenue Account system proposed by his Department. [284238]

Mr. Ian Austin: On Tuesday, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing announced in the House that he intended to publish a consultation document before summer recess on reform of council housing finance. The document will set out proposals for a devolved system of responsibility and funding which removes the need to redistribute revenue nationally, in exchange for a one-off redistribution of housing debt.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 833W, on housing: construction, how many and what proportion of bidders for funding from the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have applied for support via *(a)* Affordable Housing Grant, *(b)* Investment Support and *(c)* Homebuy Direct; and if he will make a statement. [284128]

John Healey: This data will be published on the HCA website at the end of July:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were purchased under *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* MyChoice HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy in each of the last three years; and how many have been purchased under each such scheme during 2009-10. [284240]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 448W, and the answer I gave him on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 508W.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has been retained in public ownership. [283873]

Mr. Malik: The assets management and sales strand of HM Treasury's Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) was established to ensure more efficient and commercial operation of assets held in the public sector. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (QEIICC) was one of nine government assets listed for further work in the pre-Budget report 2008 last November. The OEP final report published on 21 April stated:

> "Following the statement in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, further work on the QEIICC has been undertaken. Although, in theory, the QEIICC could be disposed of now, this would be potentially at a significant discount to its underlying value. A more measured approach is required. The conclusions are, therefore, as a first step, to undertake a site development study within three to six months advised by a firm of property professionals. It will explore the opportunity of redeveloping the existing site, in a way that is sympathetic to planning considerations and current business operations. This could entail retaining the existing conference business for the foreseeable future. Marketing and disposal could take place at various stages depending on market evolution and prevailing risk and reward considerations, but at the latest by mid 2012."

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what terms and conditions are set by his Department in relation to the provision of funding from his Department's budget to *(a)* charities, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* social enterprises. [284208]

Mr. Malik: The Department provides funding to organisations in a number of different ways, for example as a contract for services, or as a grant for an agreed activity. The terms and conditions that are set will vary depending on the nature and purpose of the funding and the type of contract or agreement between the department and the recipient. There are some that will be common to all agreements, such as that the money should be used for the purposes intended, that it is possible to demonstrate this, and that its use complies with any existing statutory or Treasury regulations, such as Managing Public Money.

In providing funding to Third Sector Organisations such as charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises the department seeks to apply, where possible, the principles set out in the Compact. Further details of these principles can be found in the Funding and Procurement Code of Good Practice:

www.thecompact.org.uk

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs to be created through digital radio switchover. [282639]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate has yet been made of the number of jobs which might be created through digital radio upgrade. The recently published Digital Britain report sets out our vision for the future of radio, and will help to create the right environment to sustain a strong radio industry.

Israel

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with his Israeli counterpart to seek to improve collaboration between the UK and Israel in *(a)* theatre, *(b)* the music industry and *(c)* sport. [282761]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have no plans to hold such discussions. However, organisations in the UK and Israel regularly form relations within sectors.

National Lottery: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Lottery funding has been allocated to organisations in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each of the last five years. [282788]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the value of lottery grants awarded to organisations in Barnsley and Doncaster in the last five years, together with the total value of lottery grants awarded in those same years.

	£
2004-05	
Total lottery money awarded	1,452,256,812
Total lottery money to Barnsley	2,520,805
Total lottery money to Doncaster	5,898,769
2005-06	
Total lottery money awarded	1,249,237,162
Total lottery money to Barnsley	2,981,272
Total lottery money to Doncaster	2,668,872
2006-07	
Total lottery money awarded	969,785,678
Total lottery money to Barnsley	1,550,769
Total lottery money to Doncaster	3,273,624
2007-08	
Total lottery money awarded	1,550,673,214
Total lottery money to Barnsley	5,303,141
Total lottery money to Doncaster	1,351,850
2008-09	
Total lottery money awarded	920,814,373
Total lottery money to Barnsley	2,009,366
Total Lottery money to Doncaster	1,764,034

These statistics have been prepared using the Department's lottery grants database. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Fuels

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on each type of fuel in each zone in which British troops are engaged in military action in each of the last three years. [272800]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Fuel costs, broken down by type and operational theatre from 2006-07 onwards are provided in the following table:

£ million

	Fuels (non utilities)			Aviation fuel		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]
Operation Oculus (Balkans)	3	1	2	1	1	1
Operation Telic (Iraq)	48	38	38	16	28	32
Operation Herrick (Afghanistan)	6	25	41	10	45	109

[1] Figures for the financial year 2008-09 are provisional, pending final outturn which will be reflected in the Departmental report and accounts due for publication in July.

The figures in the table comprise petroleum-based liquid fuels meeting internationally recognised specifications that are used to power ships and vehicles, plus aviation fuels only. These figures can only be viewed as approximate since other fuels (such as natural gas and heating oil) are accounted for within a broader stock category, and some small local purchases may not be captured within these amounts. Costs relating to overall fuel price variance are recorded separately in terms of total departmental expenditure.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine is expected to start delivering services in Birmingham. [282933]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) was established at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, in April 2001 and has been the principal reception point for military casualties evacuated to the UK since then. A military managed ward was established at Selly Oak in late 2006 and achieved full operating capability in July 2007. The military ward concept, with additional facilities, will be carried over to the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital being built in Edgbaston. We expect that the new ward will start receiving patients in June 2010 and that other elements of the RCDM will be operational in the new hospital by 2011.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the new *(a)* staff and patient accommodation block, *(b)* prosthetic limb workshop and *(c)* neurological laboratory at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court is to be (i) completed and (ii) open for use. [282934]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A new 58-bed staff and patient accommodation block (Wood House), enhancing existing accommodation facilities, was completed in December 2008 and opened for use in January 2009. A programme of refurbishment continues for the remainder of the living accommodation.

There has been a prosthetic limb workshop in use at Headley Court since June 2006; planning for a replacement facility is under consideration.

The new Centre for Mental and Cognitive Health was completed in April and opened for use in May 2009.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other arrangements his Department has put in place to support families visiting patients at (i) the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine's clinical facilities at Selly Oak and (ii) other defence medical facilities in the Midlands. [283344]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We recognise that welfare support for both our Service personnel and their families is one of our key responsibilities and one that is taken very seriously by the MOD. To this end, when Service personnel are hospitalised, depending upon the severity of their condition, their families are provided with travel and accommodation at public expense to allow them to be with their loved one at such a difficult time. Each family is also allocated a Visiting Officer whose main role is to liaise between the family and the military to ensure they receive the most appropriate support from the many specialist welfare providers such as Defence Medical Welfare Service and the single-Service specialist welfare services.

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received a Certificate of Cessation of Entitlement to Occupy Service Living Accommodation *(a)* five months, *(b)* four months, *(c)* three months, *(d)* two months and *(e)* less than one month before discharge in each of the last 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [283498]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A Certificate of Cessation of Entitlement to Occupy Service Accommodation is provided in order to assist personnel and their families in seeking social housing, and is issued on request.

Information relating to the certificates is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* the Gurkha Pension Scheme, *(b)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 and *(c)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [282126]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For financial year 2008-09 the amount of pensions paid to members and dependants was as follows:

Gurkha pension scheme

The pensions paid are not allocated to a separate cost code and a fully accurate amount is not therefore available. However for financial year 2008-09 it was estimated to amount to some £48 million, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Armed forces pension scheme

2005: £26 million.

1975: £2.7 billion.

Armed Forces: Swine Flu

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services have been diagnosed with swine flu. [284034]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will answer shortly.

Combat Stress

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has provided to each Combat Stress centre for providing treatment to war pensioners in each of the last 10 years; and how many pensioners have been treated at each such centre. [283079]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Funds are provided through the War Pensions Scheme's discretionary power to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of ex-members of the armed forces that arise from a disablement due to service before 6 April 2005 where it is not provided for under other UK legislation. This includes the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing remedial treatment at homes run by Combat Stress for conditions related to their individual pensioned disablement and of related expenses such as travel costs. Combat Stress receives separate funding from the Scottish Executive for war pensioners' resident in Scotland who receive treatment at Hollybush House.

The following table shows the funding received by Combat Stress to defray individual treatment expenses under the War Pensions Scheme for the past eight years.

	Funding (£ million)
2001-02	1.2
2002-03	1.5
2003-04	1.6
2004-05	2.0
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.5
2007-08	3.2
2008-09	3.5

Funding figures for the previous two years and a complete breakdown of the number of war pensioners treated at each centre could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in order to give some indication of the numbers of war pensioners receiving treatment, we can state that in financial year 2007-08 some 1,200 individuals, funded through the auspices of the War Pensions Scheme, were treated at the three Combat Stress sites.

Defence: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has approved a review note authorising funding for the Defence Training Review Package 1 planning process. [283658]

Bill Rammell: Review notes and the consequent contingent liabilities which include underwriting the costs of the planning process have been approved. These were included within departmental minutes in relation to the Defence Training Review Package 1 Project which were lodged in the Library of the House on 29 January 2008, 17 February 2009 and 26 June 2009 respectively. In the case of the latter, approval of the underwrite is dependant on the successful outcome of contract negotiations.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military *(a)* bases and *(b)* other sites owned by his Department containing accommodation areas are (i) redundant and (ii) shortly to become redundant for his Department's purposes. [277867]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested will take a little time to gather and verify. I will write to the hon. Member with the information that is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Edward Garnier:

In my answer of 3 June 2009 (Official Report, column 551W) I undertook to write to you with details of which military bases and other sites owned by the Department containing accommodation, are redundant or shortly to become redundant for the Departments purposes.

The Department routinely places in the Library of the House a list of its sites being disposed of or coming up for disposal. An updated list will shortly be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278747]

Mr. Hutton: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Ministry of Defence is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament. The equivalent information from the 2007-08 annual resource account can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/
CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/
MODAnnualReport0708/

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original target date for the completion of the first increment of the Defence Information Infrastructure programme was; when the original target date was changed; and on what date the first increment was completed. [283540]

Mr. Quentin Davies: When the contract for the DII programme was approved in March 2005, the target date for completion of Increment 1 was end July 2007. The target date was revised in December 2006, when the contract was amended to include Increment 2, and again in October 2008. The delivery target of 62,800 terminals was completed in mid February 2009 within weeks of the planned milestone set for the end of the first increment.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Defence Information Infrastructure programme was estimated to cost at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the original estimated cost of the programme was. [283558]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The original estimate for the DII programme was £5,854 million. This estimate did not include the Deployed and Top Secret requirements as their capability and scope was not fully mature at that time. The current estimated cost of realising DII, including the cost of related programmes, is £7.1 billion. This remains unchanged from the figure reported by the National Audit Office in July 2008.

European Fighter Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* total and *(b)* unit cost of the new Tranche 3 Eurofighter. [283665]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This matter is currently the subject of negotiations with our partner nations and industry.

Frigates

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when each Royal Navy frigate in service is due to be taken out of service. [283655]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our present planning assumptions are set out in the table:

	Out-of-service date
Type 22	
HMS Cornwall	2019
HMS Campbeltown	2020
HMS Cumberland	2021
HMS Chatham	2022
Type 23	
HMS Argyll	2023
HMS Lancaster	2024
HMS Iron Duke	2025
HMS Monmouth	2026
HMS Montrose	2027
HMS Westminster	2028
HMS Northumberland	2029
HMS Richmond	2030
HMS Somerset	2031
HMS Sutherland	2033
HMS Kent	2034
HMS Portland	2035
HMS St. Albans	2036

Gurkhas

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkha soldiers have died while serving with the UK armed forces since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [283986]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Records indicate that as at 27 June 2009, 82 Gurkhas have died in service since 1979. This includes deaths that occurred both while on and off duty.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkha soldiers who served with the UK armed forces before 1997 receive no pension from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [283985]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are around 5,000 veterans and veterans' widows who do not qualify for a Service Pension but who receive a Welfare Pension from the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, which is the field arm of the independent charity, the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The Welfare Pension is paid from donations made to the Gurkha Welfare Trust which allows them a sustainable lifestyle. The Ministry of Defence grants the Gurkha Welfare Trust more than £1 million per year, which covers most of its administrative costs in Nepal.

There are around 7,000 veterans who did not serve for long enough to qualify for a Service Pension and who are not yet old enough or needy enough to qualify for a Welfare Pension. On leaving the Brigade of Gurkhas, they would have received a gratuity but no pension. If these veterans fall on hard times they too become eligible for a Welfare Pension.

All veterans receive free primary health care and those without Gurkha Pension Scheme or AFPS payments receive free secondary health care, all through the Gurkha Welfare Scheme.

Military Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type are available for use on *(a)* operations and *(b)* training within the armed forces. [283659]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All in service frontline military aircraft are deemed to be available for operations at various states of readiness, ranging from those that are available immediately to those that may require a period of notice to deploy.

For the total number of frontline in service military aircraft, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 4MC, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). For the number of aircraft available for training, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 46W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring.

Royal Regiment of Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of measures to preserve the identities of the battalions which make up the Royal Regiment of Scotland since the merger of the Scottish regiments; [283626]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of proposals to introduce a single colour of hackle for all Territorial Army soldiers in the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [283627]

Bill Rammell: Since the formation of the large, single-cap badge The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the separate identities of its antecedent regiments have been preserved in a number of ways, not least by including them prominently in the battalion titles, for example; The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Preservation is further illustrated by the retention of golden threads in uniforms and accoutrements such as the Black Watch red hackle and the Highlanders' blue hackle.

The identities of the regiment's battalions are very clear and easily understood by its officers and soldiers and the wider community in Scotland. The regiment places great importance in its heritage and uses its history to inspire and nurture its new recruits and current members; the regimental history taught to its soldiers is captured in a handbook which is given to all new recruits. The Army ensures that regimental traditions, heritage, cultures and local connections continue through the excellent relations between its retired soldiers, the serving community, and the outstanding support from the local communities associated with their antecedent regiments.

There are no plans to introduce a single colour of hackle for all Territorial Army (TA) soldiers in The Royal Regiment of Scotland as this would run contrary to the traditions of infantry regiments in Scotland.

However, 52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (6 SCOTS) currently wear either a black or white hackle while 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (7 SCOTS) wear a variety of colours—each colour representing one of the former Scottish infantry regiments.

This variety of head dress (within a regiment, battalion, and in some cases a company) is as a result of the reorganisation of the infantry structure. It is very unusual in the British Army and contrary to normal regimental integrity.

Therefore, the regimental headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Scotland is currently considering proposals from each of the two TA battalions to have their own unique and distinctive hackle to establish their own identities, which will then be consistent with the other five Regular Army battalions in The Royal Regiment of Scotland, each of whom wear their own single coloured hackle.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the potential for use of unmanned aerial vehicles on aircraft carriers. [283660]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 23W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie). There has been no substantive change in the position since that time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to encourage young people to *(a)* remain in farming and *(b)* take up farming as a career. [283609]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Fresh Start, an industry-led initiative supported by Government, helps train new entrants to the farming industry. There are 24 Fresh Start Academies, with more in the pipeline, focusing on developing business skills for new farmers.

DEFRA provides funding to support the activities of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs which work with young people, aged 10-26, with an interest in rural issues. The clubs offer young people a range of activities and experiences with a rural flavour, including training in agricultural and countryside skills and competitive activities. DEFRA provides funding to support those activities which meet DEFRA priorities.

Government supported the Year of Food and Farming in 2007-08 and are supporting the legacy campaign, Think Food and Farming. These schemes have helped children and young people learn about growing food, what happens on a farm, what life is like in the countryside and what the countryside can offer in terms of employment. Through agri-environmental schemes farmers receive approximately £1 million per year to provide educational visits to their farms from schools and other interest groups.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is developing a new Diploma offering a mix of classroom and hands on experience at different levels in Environmental and Land-based Studies for 14 to 19-year-olds. It will be available in some schools and colleges in England from September 2009, and across the whole country by 2013. It focuses on the environmental and land-based sector and includes subjects such as:

working with plants and animals

environmental sciences

the way land is used for the production of food and for recreation

he effect humans have on the world around and how to limit the damage we do.

Agriculture: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to the development of agricultural businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282152]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Funding allocated by DEFRA for the development of agricultural businesses is not generally recorded at constituency or county level. The following table provides figures covering allocations made to farmers in Essex in each of the last five years under the agri-environment schemes, which form part of the wider Rural Development Programme that provides support to the agricultural sector. These schemes are delivered by Natural England.

	Total (£ million)
2004-05	29,090,000
2005-06	33,100,000
2006-07	42,610,000
2007-08	51,090,000
2008-09	56,430,000
Grand total	212,320,000

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in the BTV8 vaccination programme; what recent assessment he has made of the effects on veterinary practices of undertaking the programme; and if he will make a statement. [282437]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The BTV8 vaccination programme played a vital role in keeping the UK free from circulating BTV8 disease last year, with vaccination levels in the region of 60 per cent. across England.

Vaccination remains voluntary in 2009. BTV8 vaccine is readily available both from the remaining Government underwritten supply and from the three manufacturers who are supplying vaccine direct to the market.

If adequate vaccination levels are not reached this year, and BTV8 is reintroduced, the disease may spread to unvaccinated animals. Evidence suggests that the disease is still present and circulating in some neighbouring EU member states. Farmers and livestock keepers should not become complacent and should vaccinate their animals for BTV8 as soon as possible.

Veterinary practices have played and continue to play a crucial role in making vaccine available to livestock keepers and advising on best practice usage to livestock keepers to ensure that disease does not spread. In playing this crucial role veterinary practices have also had the opportunity to benefit from sales of the vaccine, and we have no evidence of widespread negative impacts on the industry.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average amount of time was between the reporting of an initial test for bovine tuberculosis as inconclusive and re-testing in each of the last five years. [280082]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Animal health systems are not able to readily provide complete and accurate data in the format requested. However, the average number of days taken to retest inconclusive TB reactors for the last five years is as follows:

Inconclusive reactor re-tests, 2004-08

	Average days
2004	76.0
2005	76.0
2006	89.0
2007	85.0
2008	70.0

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 938W, on bovine tuberculosis: vaccination, if he will consult hon. Members for constituencies in the most affected areas on *(a)* numbers of farmers signing up to participate in the pilots and *(b)* mechanisms to be put in place for the administration of the vaccine. [283299]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We will shortly be writing to MPs with constituencies in the selected areas to inform them about the project, the 'catchment' areas where we will be signing up farmers to participate and the timetable. The letters will include a contact point so MPs can get in touch to find out more or if they would like to discuss further.

Dairy Farmers of Britain

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the receivers of the Dairy Farmers of Britain co-operative on payment of the May 2009 milk cheque to members supplying the co-operative. [283217]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 17 June I attended a meeting of the Receivers (PWC), senior officials, Dairy Farmers of Britain Members Council, Dairy UK, farm unions, banks, and charity and benevolent organisations to continue coordinated efforts and work towards our common goal of minimising the impacts on all those affected.

The failure to pay the May milk cheques to members supplying the co-operative is a matter for the Receiver.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the receivers of the Dairy Farmers of Britain co-operative about the business prospects of former members of the co-operative. [283218]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 17 June I attended a meeting of the Receivers (PwC) and other parties to continue coordinated efforts to minimise the impacts on farmers, hauliers and employees.

All members affected are being made aware of all available schemes and assistance to help businesses and individuals through difficulties (such as Business Link and the HMRC Business Payment Support Services).

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UK dairy industry on the collapse of the Dairy Farmers of Britain co-operative. [283219]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 17 June I met with representatives of the dairy industry, farm unions and others to continue coordinated efforts and work towards our common goal of minimising the impacts on all those affected.

Dairy Farming

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports his Department received of the financial difficulties faced by the cooperative Dairy Farmers in Britain before it went into receivership. [281985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The challenges faced by Dairy Farmers of Britain were widely reported in recent months. Ministers held discussions with Lord Granchester (chairman of DFB) on more than one occasion and officials kept Ministers informed of discussions with stakeholders on the issue. The details of these discussions were commercially confidential and sensitive.

Pollution: Tame Valley

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the risk of diffuse pollution from *(a)* agriculture, *(b)* transport and *(c)* industry in the Tame Valley catchment area. [283222]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency is mitigating the risk of diffuse pollution in the Tame Valley catchment by regulating pig and poultry installations under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (EPR) 2007. The Environment Agency also undertakes targeted visits to nitrate vulnerable zones and responds to pollution incidents.

The Environment Agency has advised on anti-pollution measures during the planning and development of major road constructions in the area and regulates the highest risk activities of industry through the EPR 2007. The Environment Agency also controls diffuse pollution through pollution prevention visits which are undertaken at un-permitted EPR sites.

DEFRA is taking forward several proposals to mitigate diffuse pollution generally including a ban on phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products. Such a ban would contribute to a reduction in phosphate pollution in watercourses, by dealing directly with this source of phosphate pollution.

Through the draft Floods and Water Management Bill we are consulting on proposals to make it compulsory to consider sustainable drainage systems in new developments. Sustainable drainage systems will not only reduce flooding but also contribute to a reduction in diffuse pollution of the aquatic environment.

In the draft Bill we are also developing proposals to improve the way wrong connections of foul sewage to surface water sewers are dealt with. Our proposals would make dealing with these wrong connections more efficient and so open up opportunities for other initiatives on wrong connections to reduce pollution of rivers and streams.

The Nitrates Action Programme requires farmers in nitrate vulnerable zones to comply with requirements concerning the use and management of manures and fertilisers. There is an extensive advisory programme in support of this.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Columbia: Human Rights

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to monitor the number of allegations of human rights abuses made against Colombian security force personnel seeking training in the UK. [282779]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) gave on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 415-16W.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [282832]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is significant co-operation between the UN peacekeeping mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and the Congolese army (FARDC) at senior military as well as at operational level. However, there have been recent isolated instances where FARDC have demonstrated hostility towards MONUC. In response, MONUC have met with senior FARDC commanders to address the issue. The Congolese Government are taking measures to enhance the discipline and effectiveness of the FARDC, with the assistance of MONUC and the wider international community.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Operation Kimia II against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [282833]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The success of Operation Kimia II has been mixed so far. The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia continues to carry out attacks against the civilian population and the Democratic Republic of Congo armed forces in north and south Kivu provinces. However, the military effort against the FDLR in north Kivu has maintained pressure on the group. We understand that in some areas the FDLR has been forced to withdraw from ground it had held.

The operation extended into south Kivu only recently. It is too early to assess its impact there but we continue to urge the UN peacekeeping mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Congolese armed forces to do all it can to protect civilians. While it remains our view that military pressure is necessary to weaken the FDLR, a lasting solution to the problems posed by the militia requires a political settlement.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations of the use by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda of Congolese civilians as human shields in Shabunda in South Kivu; and if he will make a statement. [282834]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have received no specific information concerning the use by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia of civilians as human shields in Shabunda. However, recent reports suggest that Shabunda territory is under the control of the FDLR, who continue to carry out acts of violence against civilians in South Kivu province. The Democratic Republic of Congo army has recently extended its operations against the FDLR into South Kivu, supported by UN peace-keepers. I commend their efforts to restrict the activity of this illegal militia.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on attacks on the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo by Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [282835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia has carried out attacks on members of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at various locations in North and South Kivu in recent weeks. These have resulted in casualties among the armed forces, FDLR and the civilian population. The Congolese army (FARDC)'s operation against the FDLR, supported by the UN peacekeeping mission to the DRC (MONUC), is continuing in North and South Kivu provinces. We continue to urge MONUC and the FARDC to do all they can to protect civilians.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Mining

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 621-22W, on the Democratic Republic of Congo: mining, what steps his Department has taken to promote good practice in *(a)* the exportation of minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* the mining sector; and if he will make a statement. [282836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to work with other governments to identify ways to encourage companies involved in the trade of minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to follow appropriate practices, and to promote the lawful trade of natural resources. Since the Answer of 12 March 2009 to which the hon. Member refers, we have agreed a series of recommendations, some of which stemmed from the research of British officials, with international partners.

We are carrying out research to determine whether British companies involved in the trade of minerals from DRC are acting in a way which might be subject to UN sanctions. We are also supporting implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in partnership with the World Bank, Germany, Belgium and the European Commission.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* military equipment and *(b)* troops required for the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1843; what steps he is taking to seek to meet such requirements; and if he will make a statement. [282830]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) will be bolstered with the arrival of the additional infantry, engineers, and special forces mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1843 in the next few months. Several member states have expressed interest in providing the 200 military trainers mandated, but at present the concept for their use is still being developed by the UN Secretariat. MONUC has not been able to acquire all of the air assets or intelligence equipment that it has requested. We continue to lobby the UN Secretariat and UN member states to contribute these assets to the mission.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect civilians in *(a)* North and *(b)* South Kivu; and if he will make a statement. [282831]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In recent months, the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has enhanced its ability to protect civilians in the Kivus by reorganising its resources to a more mobile posture and through the creation of joint civilian and military protection teams. However, given the difficult terrain and mobility of rebel groups, MONUC is unlikely to be able to prevent all isolated attacks on civilians. But the additional troops that will arrive in coming months will further increase MONUC's capacity to implement its mandate.

Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iran on the protection of religious and ethnic minorities. [283644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have serious concerns about the situation of religious and ethnic minorities in Iran.

The Iranian authorities continue to prohibit the use of minority languages in schools, and ethnic groups such as Ahwazi Arabs, Azeris, Baluchis, Kurds and Turkmen face persecution and arbitrary arrest for campaigning for their basic rights. Many activists remain in detention on charges of endangering national security.

Iran's religious minorities continue to suffer gross human rights violations, including extra-judicial killings, detention without charge, confiscation of property, and denial of education. Such events appear to be increasingly commonplace, and are cause for serious concern.

Alongside our EU partners we have made clear to the Iranian authorities that the persecution of individuals on the grounds of religion, belief or ethnicity is unacceptable. We have expressed concern about the persecution of ethnic minorities and, in a declaration of 25 May 2009, called on the Iranian authorities to uphold their international legal undertakings to safeguard religious freedom and to stop their persecution of legitimate religious activities.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* funding and *(b)* other assistance his Department has provided to support the National Accord in Kenya in the last 12 months. [283273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to support the implementation of the agenda 4 items set out in the National Accord, including on constitutional, judicial, police and electoral reform and the issue of impunity.

The UK is the leading donor to the Annan process, which supported the Kriegler and Waki Commissions, on which the reform process and the National Accord is based. We have provided £1.4 million in total support (£200,000 in 2007-08 and £1.2 million in 2008-09). We have provided additional support to civil society organisations to assist communities to reconcile and engage in the peace process. In the past two financial years, civil society support amounted to £1.2 million.

This financial year the UK has funded the provision of technical expertise to the police reform group, which was created following the recommendations of Justice Waki's Commission into the post-election violence.

All support has been managed jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme (ACPP).

We continue to urge Kenya's leaders to work together to ensure that the key reforms needed in Kenya are made. We will continue to offer our full support to Kofi Annan and his leadership role in the reform process.

Palestinians

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the role of the government of Egypt in the distribution of humanitarian aid to Palestinians living in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [283652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is vital that aid reaches the people in Gaza who need it. The UK has been consistent in its calls for better humanitarian Access to the area. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised this issue on a number of occasions, most recently in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009.

My predecessor, the hon. Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) raised the issue of access through the Rafah Crossing for humanitarian aid providers with the Egyptian Government when he was in Egypt on 21 May 2009. All aid to Gaza from Egypt is channelled though the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Sri Lanka: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations that candidates for the Jaffna Municipal Council elections in Sri Lanka have been subjected to intimidation; and if he will make a statement. [282823]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of reports that some candidates in the upcoming mayoral elections in Jaffna have been the subject of intimidation by paramilitary groups. We have raised our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government about the prospects of violence and intimidation in the context of local elections in the north and regularly raise the need to disarm paramilitary groups and take decisive action to prevent their activities. The Government's consistent position has been that a political process, based on respect, inclusion and rule of law is essential to address the underlying causes of the recent conflict. Ensuring all elections are transparent, fair and free from intimidation is a crucial part of this process.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any recent reports of the harassment of civil society organisations engaged in voter education and election monitoring programmes in Sudan. [283744]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have received reports of harassment of civil society organisations engaged in elections work in Sudan. One report we have received relates to a recent incident when the Sudanese Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission visited a non-governmental organisation in Khartoum and prevented it from organising a meeting on the elections.

Such reports indicate a worrying approach towards freedom of expression in the run-up to the 2010 elections. Our ambassador is raising the issue of harassment of civil society organisations with the authorities in Sudan and calling on them to explain the steps they are taking to ensure freedom of expression.

The UK is committed to supporting nation-wide elections in Sudan now scheduled for April 2010. We are providing significant assistance to the preparations for the elections and are monitoring developments closely to ensure mat the elections are free and fair.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek the inclusion of a human rights monitoring role for the United Nations MINURSO mission. [283037]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believe that greater openness and transparency on human rights by all the parties would create a significantly better environment for political dialogue between the parties. We do not believe including a human rights monitoring role in the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

(MINURSO) mandate at this time would build confidence between the parties or assist the UN-led negotiation efforts.

We support the call by the UN Secretary-General, in his latest report, for the parties to remain engaged in a continuous and constructive dialogue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to make progress on the human dimension of the conflict.

World Political Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on regional security in *(a)* Asia, *(b)* the Americas, *(c)* Africa, *(d)* Europe and *(e)* the Middle East. [282762]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his international counterparts on regional security issues, most recently during the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Trieste on 25-26 June 2009 and the informal meeting of Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Foreign Ministers in Corfu on 27-28 June 2009.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women who had an abortion in 2008 were married at the time of the abortion; what the modal *(a)* age of the women, *(b)* length of gestation of the pregnancy, *(c)* number of previous children born to the women and *(d)* number of previous abortions undergone by the women were; and what the most common legal grounds were under which such abortions were performed. [283722]

Gillian Merron: The information is shown in the following table.

Most common[1] conditions for married women[2] having abortions in 2008

	Total	*Age*	*Gestation*	*Number of previous children*	*Number of previous abortions*	*Ground*
England	29,131	29	7	2	0	[3]—

[1] Statistical mode (highest frequency)

[2] Includes women in a civil partnership

[3] That the pregnancy has not exceeded its 24th week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 13 and *(g)* 12 years old in each strategic health authority area who had had (i) one, (ii) two, (ii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2008. [283724]

Gillian Merron: The information is shown in the following table.

Previous abortions by age under 19 and strategic health authority of residence, 2008

		Age		
Strategic health Authority	*Previous abortions*	*Under 18*	*18*	*Total under age 19*
East	0	1,431	891	2,322
	1+	106	173	279
	Total	1,537	1,064	2,601
East Midlands	0	1,342	697	2,039
	1+	84	98	182
	Total	1,426	795	2,221
London	0	2,756	1,601	4,357
	1+	372	464	836
	Total	3,128	2,065	5,193
North East	0	946	424	1,370
	1+	56	55	111
	Total	1,002	479	1,481
North West	0	2,674	1,385	4,059
	1+	206	218	424
	Total	2,880	1,603	4,483
South Central	0	1,052	547	1,599
	1+	83	105	188
	Total	1,135	652	1,787
South East	0	1,259	692	1,951
	1+	105	124	229
	Total	1,364	816	2,180
South West	0	1,509	756	2,265
	1+	114	111	225
	Total	1,623	867	2,490
Yorkshire and Humber	0	1,858	933	2,791
	1+	127	144	271
	Total	1,985	1,077	3,062
West Midlands	0	2,046	1,001	3,047
	1+	213	241	454
	Total	2,259	1,242	3,501
England	0	16,873	8,927	25,800
	1+	1,466	1,733	3,199
	Total	18,339	10,660	28,999

Note:

Ages and number of previous abortions are grouped where totals are less than 10 (between 0 and nine) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value from previously published data, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18 to 24 years and *(b)* 25 to 30 years old in each strategic health authority area who had had (i) one, (ii) two, (ii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2008. [283725]

Gillian Merron: The information is shown in the following table. Data are published in age group 25-29. Data are presented in the same format to make the maximum data available.

Previous abortions by age under 30 and strategic health authority of residence, 2008

Strategic health authority	Previous abortions	Age 18-24	 25-29
East	0	4,809	2,031
	1	1,489	984
	2	263	296
	3 or more	64	99
	Total	6,625	3,410
East Midlands	0	3,919	1,555
	1	1,038	694
	2	158	212
	3 or more	25	66
	Total	5,140	2,527
London	0	11,443	6,818
	1	4,795	3,817
	2	1,063	1,167
	3 or more	288	421
	Total	17,589	12,223
North East	0	2,505	919
	1	642	420
	2	103	104
	3 or more	30	41
	Total	3,280	1,484
North West	0	8,067	3,138
	1	2,399	1,526
	2	384	339
	3 or more	80	115
	Total	10,930	5,118
South Central	0	3,445	1,313
	1	1,033	752
	2	168	164
	3 or more	38	55
	Total	4,684	2,484
South East	0	3,790	1,420
	1	1,228	869
	2	210	236
	3 or more	46	80
	Total	5,274	2,605
South West	0	4,357	1,689
	1	1,113	784
	2	166	169
	3 or more	39	43
	Total	5,675	2,685
Yorkshire and Humber	0	5,553	2,064
	1	1,603	965
	2	236	228
	3 or more	79	68
	Total	7,471	3,325
West Midlands	0	6,071	2,413
	1	2,165	1,317
	2	376	342
	3 or more	85	124
	Total	8,697	4,196
England	0	53,959	23,560
	1	17,505	12,128
	2	3,127	3,257
	3 or more	774	1,112
	Total	75,365	40,057

Note:

Number of previous abortions are grouped where totals are less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value from previously published data, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people, *(b)* under 18 year-olds, *(c)* under 16 year-olds and *(d)* under 12 year-olds were given drug rehabilitation treatment for each type of drug in each of the last five years. [282766]

Gillian Merron: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Age group data were collected in the years before 2007-08 but this was not of sufficient quality to publish National Statistics.

Data for the years before 2007-08 are only available for age groups under or over 18 years of age and exclude alcohol treatment.

Numbers presenting by age and primary substance of dependence 2007-08

	Under 12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	Persons (18 and under)
Heroin and other opiates	10	[1]—	16	21	46	172	382	[1]—
Amphetamines	[1]—	[1]—	12	32	69	88	140	346
Cocaine	[1]—	[1]—	7	60	164	226	344	806
Crack	[1]—	[1]—	5	6	25	33	85	[1]—
Ecstasy	[1]—	[1]—	18	47	100	146	123	438

Numbers presenting by age and primary substance of dependence 2007-08

	Under 12	*12-13*	*13-14*	*14-15*	*15-16*	*16-17*	*17-18*	*Persons (18 and under)*
Cannabis	102	230	745	1,884	3,114	3,035	2,911	12,021
Solvents	22	23	49	75	71	32	33	305
Alcohol	57	169	565	1,244	1,970	2,131	2,453	8,589
Other	¹—	¹—	15	30	44	61	85	241
Total (clients)	202	436	1,432	3,399	5,603	5,924	6,556	23,552
Missing or inconsistent data	25	31	44	67	55	63	68	353
Total including missing data	227	467	1,476	3,466	5,658	5,987	6,624	23,905

[1] '—' represents numbers less than five. A total number is replaced by '—' if its inclusion would allow the number less than five to be calculated.

Source:

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) report 'Getting to grips with substance misuse among young people'.

Primary drug of misuse by age at triage 2007-08

	Aged less than 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years or over at triage*		*All persons*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Median age at triage*
Heroin	773	5	122,749	66	123,522	61	31
Methadone	15	0	10,097	5	10,112	5	34
Other opiates	43	0	5,404	3	5,447	3	34
Benzodiazepines	59	0	2,029	1	2,088	1	36
Amphetamines	383	2	5,320	3	5,703	3	32
Cocaine	861	5	11,752	6	12,613	6	27
Crack	168	1	10,826	6	10,994	5	32
Hallucinogens	58	0	344	0	402	0	24
Ecstasy	490	3	569	0	1,059	1	18
Cannabis	12,865	78	13,422	7	26,287	13	18
Solvents	321	2	178	0	499	0	15
Barbiturates	<5	0	<39	0	39	0	35
Major tranquilisers	<5	0	<39	0	39	0	36
Antidepressants	<5	0	<171	0	171	0	37
Other drugs	65	0	1,631	1	1,696	0	41
Poly use: no details	65	0	153	0	218	0	29
Drug free at triage	273	2	745	0	1,018	1	28
Total (clients)	¹16,450	100	¹185,460	100	201,907	100	—
Missing/inconsistent data	34	—	725	—	759	—	—
Total including missing/inconsistent data	¹16,485	—	¹186,185	—	202,666	—	—

[1] Totals rounded to nearest five as indicated.

Source:

'Statistics from The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2007-31 March 2008'. Published September 2008.

Main drug of misuse by age at triage for clients in treatment 2006-07

	Aged less than 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years or over at triage*		*All persons*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Median age at triage*
Heroin	965	6	117,305	66	118,270	61	31
Methadone	30	0	10,822	6	10,852	6	34
Other opiates	41	0	5,428	3	5,469	3	34
Benzodiazepines	47	0	2,117	1	2,164	1	36
Amphetamines	375	2	5,477	3	5,852	3	32
Cocaine	716	5	10,078	6	10,794	6	28
Crack	181	1	10,664	6	10,845	6	32
Hallucinogens	35	0	205	0	240	0	24
Ecstasy	477	3	575	0	1,052	1	18
Cannabis	11,582	75	13,087	7	24,669	13	18
Solvents	317	2	189	0	506	0	15
Barbiturates	0	0	22	0	22	0	30
Major tranquilisers	<5	0	<22	0	22	0	42
Antidepressants	<5	0	<301	0	301	0	37

Main drug of misuse by age at triage for clients in treatment 2006-07

	Aged less than 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years or over at triage*		*All persons*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Median age at triage*
Other drugs	44	0	755	0	799	0	32
Poly use; no details	77	1	313	0	390	0	31
Drug free at triage	463	3	1,005	1	1,468	1	28
Total (clients)	[1]15,355	100	[1]178,360	100	193,715	100	—
Missing/inconsistent data	52	—	1,697	—	1,749	—	—
Total including missing/ inconsistent data	[1]15,410	—	[1]180,060	—	195,464	—	—

[1] Totals rounded to nearest five as indicated.

Source:

'Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2006-31 March 2007'.

Main drug of misuse by age at triage for clients in treatment 2005-06

	Aged less than 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years or over at triage*		*All persons*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Median age at triage*
Heroin	1,039	8	108,112	67	109,151	63	30
Methadone	30	0	10,136	6	10,166	6	33
Other opiates	42	0	4,595	3	4,637	3	34
Benzodiazepines	49	0	1,972	1	2,021	1	36
Amphetamines	354	3	4,848	3	5,202	3	31
Cocaine	517	4	7,787	5	8,304	5	28
Crack	209	2	9,328	6	9,537	5	31
Hallucinogens	28	0	158	0	186	0	26
Ecstasy	378	3	533	0	911	1	19
Cannabis	9,516	74	11,585	7	21,101	12	18
Solvents	235	2	176	0	411	0	16
Barbiturates	<5	0	<25	0	25	0	28
Major tranquilisers	<5	0	<20	0	20	0	36
Antidepressants	<5	0	<225	0	225	0	35
Other drugs	28	0	601	0	629	0	31
Poly use; no details	91	1	479	0	570	0	30
Drug free at triage	286	2	1,069	1	1,355	1	32
Total (clients)	[1]12,805	100	[1]161,64	100	174,451	100	—
Missing/inconsistent data	161	—	2,443	—	2,604	—	—
Total including missing/ inconsistent data	[1]12,970	—	[1]164,085	—	177,055	—	—

[1] Totals rounded to nearest five as indicated.

Source:

'Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2005-31 March 2006'

Main drug of misuse by age at triage for NDTMS clients 2004-05[1]

	Aged under 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years and over at triage*		*Total*[2]		*Median age at triage*
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Years*
Heroin	1,048	14	79,061	67	80,274	64	29
Methadone	29	0	6,460	5	6,500	5	33
Other opiates	29	0	3,950	3	3,980	3	33
Benzodiazepines	32	0	1,759	1	1,793	1	36
Amphetamines	219	3	3,518	3	3,760	3	30
Cocaine	231	3	5,117	4	5,354	4	29
Crack	144	2	6,909	6	7,061	6	31
Hallucinogens	18	0	109	0	127	0	25
Ecstasy	274	4	479	0	759	1	19
Cannabis	5,033	67	8,312	7	13,408	11	20
Solvents	158	2	138	0	301	0	17
Barbiturates	0	0	28	0	28	0	29
Major tranquillisers	0	0	10	0	10	0	42
Antidepressants	3	0	158	0	161	0	36
Other drugs1	164	2	1,341	1	1,511	1	31

Main drug of misuse by age at triage for NDTMS clients 2004-05[1]

	Aged under 18 years at triage		*Aged 18 years and over at triage*		*Total*[2]		*Median age at triage*
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Years*
Poly use; no details	126	2	638	1	764	1	30
Total	7,508	100	117,987	100	125,791	100	—
Missing or inconsistent main drug data	83	—	1,594	—	1,710	—	—
Total including missing and inconsistent main drug data	7,591	—	119,581	—	127,501	—	—

[1] Excludes clients treated in the north-west region.

[2] Includes 329 clients for whom age at triage unavailable.

Source:

'Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2004-31 March 2005'. Published 29 September 2006.

The NDTMS started collecting these data in 2004-05. The data for 2003-04 are not available centrally.

The increase in the numbers of young people in treatment for drugs misuse reflects both the growth in treatment services for young people, and the success in getting more young people into treatment, rather than any increase in the actual incidence of substance misuse.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have been diagnosed as having foetal alcohol syndrome in each year since 1997. [283427]

Gillian Merron: Analysis of Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data on the number of babies 'diagnosed' with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) at birth shows that there are approximately 20 such babies diagnosed each year. This is not the number of babies actually born with FAS: it is widely recognised that many cases of FAS are only diagnosed later in childhood, and hence will not be identified through the national HES database, or may remain undiagnosed as children with learning or behavioural difficulty of unknown cause.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many armed forces veterans have received priority NHS care in each of the last 10 years. [283662]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Priority access to national health service secondary care for any conditions which are likely to be related to their service (subject to the clinical needs of all patients) previously available only to war pensioners, was extended to all veterans (someone who has served at least one day in the United Kingdom armed forces) from 1 January 2008. Data on numbers of veterans receiving priority treatment are not collected centrally.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts which have implemented National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on provision of both single embryo transfer and three cycles of in vitro fertilisation/intracytoplasmic sperm injection. [283984]

Gillian Merron: A recent survey on the number of cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) offered by primary care trusts was published on the Department's website in June 2009 and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Fertility/index.htm

The references to IVF also include intracytoplasmic sperm injection. We do not collect information centrally on the local implementation of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's policy of licensed fertility clinics increasing single embryo transfer in order to reduce the incidence of multiple births following IVF.

Incontinence

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to revise his Department's guidance on good practice in continence services issued in 2000. [283982]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

Intensive Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many episodes of level *(a)* 3 and *(b)* 2 critical care there were in each NHS trust in England in 2008. [284192]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not available centrally. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 343W.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for an NHS operation was in *(a)* the East of England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) each of the last five years. [282857]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data is not available in the format requested.

Data is provided by the strategic health authority (SHA) and by their preceding organisations. national health service organisations have changed structure over time. For the periods requested, the best possible fit of organisation(s) has been used to reflect the median in patient waiting time in each of the three areas for 1997 and 2005-09.

		March 1997	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	May 2009
East of England	East of England SHA	—	—	—	6.8	4.9	4.3	4.5
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA		8.8	7.3	—	—	—	—
	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	—	9.0	7.8	—	—	—	—
	Essex SHA	—	8.1	7.1	—	—	—	—
	Bedfordshire HA	14.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cambridge and Huntington HA	12.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	North Essex HA	15.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	South Essex HA	13.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	East Norfolk HA	12.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	North West Anglia HA	12.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suffolk HA	14.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	East and North Hertfordshire	14.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	West Hertfordshire	14.7	—	—	—	—	—	—

		March 1997	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	May 2009
Essex	East of England SHA	—	—	—	6.3	4.4	4.3	4.5
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	—	—	—	7.5	5.5	3.9	4.0
	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	—	—	—	6.5	5.6	4.7	5.2
	Essex SHA	—	—	—	7.9	5.2	4.7	5.1
	Bedfordshire HA	—	—	—	5.8	4.6	3.6	4.1
	Cambridge and Huntington HA	—	8.1	7.1	—	—	—	—
	North Essex HA	15.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	South Essex HA	13.1	—	—	—	—	—	—

		March 1997	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	May 2009
	South East Essex PCT	—	—	—	6.3	4.4	4.3	4.5
	Castle Point and Rochford PCT	—	6.2	7.3	—	—	—	—
	South Essex HA	13.1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:

In April 2006-07 weekly timebands were introduced which replaced the monthly timebands. In April 2005-06 monthly timebands were introduced replacing the three monthly timebands.

Source:

QF01 and Monthly Monitoring

Nurses: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether nurses receive *(a)* pre-registration and *(b)* post-registration education and training in the provision of continence services. [283981]

Ann Keen: Education and training for all nurses is the responsibility of their employers in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs. Nurses receive training in continence services during their preparation for registration, and as part of their continuing professional development.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 219 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, whether the projections for prescription charge income take account of his Department's proposals in relation to the exemption from prescription charges of people with long-term illnesses. [283875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Security Officers: Parliament

Tom Brake: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many days sickness absence have been taken by security officers of each category working on the Parliamentary estate in each year since 2000. [283823]

Nick Harvey: The following data has been provided by the Palace of Westminster Head of Security:

Working days lost due to sickness absence—security staff only:

2000-01

Security Officers: 1,391

Security Officer Managers: 50

2001-02

Security Officers: 1,271

Security Officer Managers: 25

2002-03

Security Officers: 1,808

Security Officer Managers: 101

2003-04

Security Officers: 1,951

Security Officer Managers: 34

2004-05

Security Officers: 1,849

Security Officer Managers: 44

2005-06

Security Officers: 2,719

Security Officer Managers: 131

2006-07

Security Officers: 3,071

Security Officer Managers: 36

2007-08

Security Officers: 2,701

Security Officer Managers: 61

2008-09

Security Officers: 3,781

Security Officer Managers: 154

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to build capacity to support democratic institutions in Kenya. [283150]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided consistent support to the political reform agenda in Kenya, through the national reconciliation process led by Kofi Annan, and support to parliamentary reform, public sector reform, land reform, police reform, public financial management reform and empowerment of civil society. In 2008-09 this support amounted to £3.6 million.

Other DFID programmes are helping to tackle some of the underlying causes of conflict and political tension, such as social and regional inequalities.

I and other Ministers, including the Prime Minister, maintain a dialogue with Kenyan politicians on the need to accelerate political reform in Kenya.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to the government of Kenya for the promotion and implementation of the National Accord. [283151]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are the leading donor to the process led by Kofi Annan to co-ordinate international support to the National Accord, which has included the Kriegler and Waki Commissions on elections and post-election violence; constitutional, judicial, police and electoral reforms, and the issue of impunity.

We have provided £1.4 million (£200,000 in 2007-08 and £1.2 million in 2008-09). All support has jointly been managed by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme. This money is provided through a trust fund rather than directly to the Government of Kenya, but it supports and stimulates the Government's leadership.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the development of civic society in Kenya. [283166]

Mr. Thomas: Since 2000 the Department for International Development (DFID) has supported civil society in Kenya principally through its £7.5 million Political Empowerment Programme. Areas of support have included the National Civic Education Programme, gender, and anti-corruption and accountability work through NGOs such as Transparency International Kenya and the National Taxpayers Association. A further £1.2 million has been provided in 2008-09 to civil society organisations working on the peace and reform agenda following the post-election violence.

DFID is currently designing a new governance programme with Canada and Denmark which would increase our support to civil society in Kenya. Details will be finalised later this year.

In addition to the above, several civil society organisations working in Kenya have received funding from DFID's centrally-managed Governance and Transparency Fund and Civil Society Challenge Fund.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department funded in the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; which organisations were involved in the delivery of each such project; and how much funding was allocated to each such project. [284185]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided direct support to one programme in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)—the FATA Secretariat Capacity Building Programme. Our funding allocation totals £1 million, and delivery is being implemented by the FATA Secretariat over the period 2008-10.

DFID has provided £22 million of humanitarian support since September 2008 to help those displaced by conflict in both the FATA and the North West Frontier Province, which has been channelled through the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organisations.

In addition, since 2005 DFID has supported the following nationwide programmes, which have helped provide services in the FATA as well as other parts of Pakistan:

Pakistan

Programme	*Implementing agency*	*Commitment (£ million)*
National Health and Population Facility	Ministry of Health	100
Polio Eradication Initiative	WHO/UNICEF	31

Pakistan

Programme	*Implementing agency*	*Commitment (£ million)*
Maternal and Newborn Health Initiative	Ministry of Health	91
Achieving Universal Access to Control HIV/AIDS	Ministry of Health (World Bank Trust Fund)	5.9
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)	RSPN	11
Financial Inclusion Programme	State Bank of Pakistan	50
Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees	UNHCR	1

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much bilateral aid his Department provided to Pakistan in each of the last five years; and on what projects such aid was spent. [284186]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided the following bilateral aid to Pakistan over the last five years.

Pakistan	*Commitment (£ million)*
2004-05	31.3
2005-06	97.4
2006-07	101.4
2007-08	86.9
2008-09	[1]120.8

[1] Estimate

A table showing the main aid projects supported by DFID in this period will be placed in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money has been spent on maintaining flags owned by his Department in the last year. [278120]

Mr. Straw: The expenditure on flag maintenance by the Ministry in the financial year 2008-09 is stated in the following table:

	£
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,127
HM Courts Service	[1]35,743
Tribunals Service	0
Office of the Public Guardian	0
Total	36,870

[1] Of the £35,743 for HM Courts Service, £24,052 was incurred on the provision and removal of flags, as well as flag maintenance. It is not possible to separate the two elements without a detail review of invoices that would incur disproportionate cost.

Flag maintenance expenditure includes the testing, inspection and surveying of the flags to ensure that they are in full operating condition.

Data on the operation and maintenance of flags by the National Offender Management Service are held locally by prisons and probation boards/trusts and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281939]

Claire Ward: Percentages of *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables used by the Ministry of Justice that were produced in the UK are shown in the following table.

			Percentage
Category	*Ministry of Justice (excluding Her Majesty's Prison Service)*	*Public sector prisons*	*Private sector prisons*
(a) Meat			
Poultry	86	29	44
Beef and Veal	72	13	31
Mutton and Lamb	52	50	1
Bacon	14	0	68
Pork	65	23	50
(b) Fruit			
Orchard Fall—Apples, pears and plums	42	0	44
Soft fruit—Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blackcurrants.	41	0	12
(c) Vegetables			
Ware potatoes—whole, unprepared	93	98	52
Processed potatoes—whole and cut	79	65	67
Roots and Onions—carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and Swedes	83	46	82
Brassicas—Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower	73	77	49
Legumes—beans and peas	84	31	32
Protected vegetables—tomatoes, cucumbers, salad, celery, sweet peppers	45	41	44
Other vegetables—asparagus, leeks and watercress	49	21	55
Overall indigenous food by value	n/a	61	n/a
Overall indigenous food by volume	67	49	56

This most recent information is contained in a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report for 2007-08 detailing the proportion of food grown or reared in the UK used by Whitehall departments, including that supplied to Ministry of Justice including public sector prisons in England and Wales under contracts negotiated by HM Prison Service, now part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

A copy of this report was placed in the House of Commons Library and can also be obtained at the following web link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/psfpi-datareport081125.pdf

These figures, compared to last year, show a growing trend in favour of domestically produced food used within the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the maintenance of his departmental website in each year since 2007. [278140]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry does not separately identify expenditure on website maintenance in its accounting records. However, the Ministry's Electronic Service Delivery division holds offline records for the following business areas:

		£
	2008-09	*2007-08*
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,410,000	1,625,160
Tribunals Service	146,256	0
Office of the Public Guardian	0	18,000
Total	1,556,256	1,643,160

It is not possible to reliably distinguish website maintenance costs from other IT expenditure for HM Courts Service and the National Offenders Management Service except at disproportionate cost.

Fraud: Property

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of fraud in relation to property leases there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [282901]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for 'obtaining property by deception' in Cleveland police force area, the North East Region and England and Wales, for the years 1998 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

Data have been provided for Cleveland police force area as information for Teesside and Middlesbrough and East Cleveland constituency is not collected centrally.

The Fraud Act 2006 which was implemented in January 2007 repealed eight sections of the Theft Acts 1968-1996, including section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, Obtaining property by deception.

Government are determined to tackle the problem of fraud, whether the victim is a multi-million pound organisation or a single individual.

Following a cross-Whitehall review of fraud, Government have allocated £29 million over three years to implement the National Fraud Programme. This includes the creation of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, launched last October, which published its first National Fraud Strategy on 19 March.

The statistics provided in this answer are for fraud offences where either the statute or the offence description identifies the fraud as relating to 'property fraud'. However, the definition of "property" under the 1968 Theft Act is as follows:

> "Property includes money and all other property, real or personal, including things in action and other tangible property".

Therefore this could include a fraudulent acquisition of anything from a mortgage to a mobile phone. A number of other fraud offences may include 'property fraud', but as the individual circumstances of the offence are not held on the court proceedings database maintained by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, it is not possible to separately identify them. One example of this is Section 2 of the 2006 Fraud Act, which came into force on 14 January 2007 and states:

> "Dishonestly making a false representation to make a gain for oneself or another".

Data under this offence have not been included in the table, as it may cover offences not connected with "property". The number of defendants found guilty under this offence in England and Wales from 14 January to 31 December 2007 was 2,574.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, in Cleveland police force area, the North-East Region and England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
Cleveland Police Force Area	143	157	131	104	98	68	74	57	39	14
North East Region [5]	732	745	703	650	573	470	418	372	271	129
England and Wales	11,438	11,478	10,430	9,438	9,354	8,457	7,519	6,472	5,080	2,470

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Fraud Act 2006 repealed S15 of the Theft Act 1968 and was implemented in January 2007.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have [illegible] excluded from the table.

[5] North East Region comprises Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas.

Source:

OCJR - E. & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit

Judicial Appointments for England and Wales

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recommendations for the appointment of judges have been made to him in his capacity as Lord Chancellor in each of the last three years. [282577]

Mr. Straw: In the last three financial years the number of recommendations for the appointment of judges that have been made to me are set out as follows:

	Number
2006-07	460
2007-08	458
2008-09	449

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appointments the Judicial Appointments Commission has made in each of the last three years. [282581]

Mr. Straw: The Judicial Appointments Commission made the following number of selections in each of the following years:

	Number
2006-07	88
2007-08	458
2008-09	449

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average period of imprisonment had been served by prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment who were released in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [279263]

Mr. Straw: The numbers of life sentenced prisoners released in 2007 along with average period spent in custody for those on first release is shown in the following table.

	Number/years
Total released	146
Mandatory lifers	
Number	90
Average time served (years)	16
Other lifers	
Number	56
Average time served (years)	9

These figures are taken from the "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007" published by Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice. This bulletin is available in the Library of the House and is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics

The 2008 figure will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 at the end of July 2009. The publication of this bulletin has been pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice and United Kingdom Statistics Authority websites.

National Offender Management Service: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Service has spent on staff salaries in each financial year since its establishment. [277803]

Mr. Straw: Staff in NOMS were part of the Home Office from 2004-05 until the creation of the new Ministry of Justice in May 2007. Staff salary costs for the years in question were as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	37.4
2005-06	55.7
2006-07	66.9
2007-08	83.1

Since October 2008, about a further 1,000 staff have returned from the Home Office to the new NOMS Agency, adding a further £19 million approximately to the paybill for the remainder of the 2008-09 financial year. This process is continuing as more Offender Management responsibilities return to the new NOMS Agency. Costs for 2008-09 will be included in the total NOMS Agency cost, figures for which will be available shortly.

Police: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were fined for an offence of *(a)* wasting police time and *(b)* giving a false report in each year since 2003. [282974]

Claire Ward: The number of persons issued with a fine at all courts for the offence of causing wasteful use of police time, wasting police time, and giving false report etc under Section 5 (2) of the Criminal Law Act 1967 in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

In addition, the offence can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The number of persons issued with a PND in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 2.

The Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme was made available to all forces in England and Wales from April 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: The number of persons Issued with a fine at all courts for the offence 'Causing wasteful employment of the police etc' in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Fine
2003	22
2004	32
2005	34
2006	32
2007	37

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute and corresponding offence description:
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2).
Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders aged 16 and over for the offence 'Wasting Police Time' in England and Wales, 2004 to 20071,2

Offence	2004	2005	2006	2007
Wasting police time	1,171	2,525	3,933	3,966

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme commenced in 2004.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Probation Officers: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation staff, excluding trainee probation officers, were in post in the Probation Service in the ceremonial county of Hampshire on 31 December 2007. [283338]

Maria Eagle: There were 249 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff on 31 December 2007 (based on the December FTE payroll report) for the ceremonial county of Hampshire (i.e. excluding the Isle of Wight). There were an additional 31 trainee probation officers (FTE) in post.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation staff, excluding trainee probation officers, were in post in the Probation Service in the ceremonial county of Hampshire on 31 December 1997. [283345]

Maria Eagle: Prior to 2003, workforce information pertaining to the Probation Service was collected by the Home Office RDS Unit and published in an annual Probation Statistics Report. The information available from that time does not enable us to extract data for a particular probation area or job group within that area.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many probation staff, excluding trainee probation officers, were in post in the Probation Service in England and Wales on 31 December 2007; [283337]

(2) how many probation staff, excluding trainee probation officers, were in post in the Probation Service in England and Wales on 31 December 1997. [283346]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of probation staff, excluding trainee probation officers, in post in England and Wales on 31 December 1997 and 2007:

—	Staff in post excluding trainees
1997	13,968
2007	19,756

Note: Figures shown as full-time equivalents.

Probation: Staffordshire

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation staff and *(b)* trainee probation officers he expects will be made redundant in Staffordshire probation area in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-12. [276985]

Mr. Straw: I understand that it is not the intention of Staffordshire probation area to make any compulsory redundancies.

The position regarding the seven trainee probation officers due to qualify in October 2009 is currently uncertain. At this stage, no probation posts have been identified as being at risk and no formal notice of redundancy has been issued.

Road Traffic Offences: Electric Vehicles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for road traffic offences relating to the use of personal transporters there were in the calendar years *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006, *(g)* 2007, *(h)* 2008 and *(i)* 2009 to date; how many pending prosecutions are outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [283506]

Claire Ward: From data held on the court proceedings database by the Ministry of Justice, it is not possible to identify the type of vehicle involved in road traffic offences.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much his Department has spent on water coolers in each of the last six months; [282274]

(2) how much his Department spent on bottled water in each of the last six months. [282281]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs has spent on bottled water in each of the last six months.

	£
October 2008	1,541
November 2008	584
December 2008	1,464
January 2009	803
February 2009	249
March 2009	176

This includes expenditure on rental and maintenance of water coolers or dispensers.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280527]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280538]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not separately record all expenditure on energy efficiency measures, therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We have however taken a number of steps in our various buildings to improve energy efficiency, including; increasing staff awareness, 'switch off campaigns', upgrading building management systems, adoption of a 'Green IT' strategy, investment in generating energy from renewable sources, purchase of green electricity, installation of a CHP system, and fitting out some buildings to encompass energy efficiency measures as defined in the 2006 Building Regulations Technical Booklet Part F—Conservation of Fuel and Power (NT).

Future energy efficiency measures will be considered as part of our overall accommodation strategy.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many flags his Department owns. [282276]

Mr. Woodward: There are three flags owned by the core Northern Ireland Office Department.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277150]

Mr. Woodward: The finance system of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not break down advertising expenditure in the detail requested therefore these figures could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However the NIO, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent the following on advertising in the last five years.

	Advertising expenditure (£)
2004-05	548,451
2005-06	159,146
2006-07	190,204
2007-08	454,075
2008-09	230,322

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay on their 2009 pay offers to staff. [283270]

Mr. Woodward: With the exception of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (an Executive Agency of the Northern Ireland Office), no sections of the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, or its NDPBs, have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service agreed a three-year pay and efficiency package which was implemented from 1 April 2007. The agreement was conditional on the delivery of significant efficiency savings over the period and this has been validated by the Prison Service Pay Review Body.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse of the Consultative Group on the Past has been since its inception in June 2007. [284154]

Paul Goggins: The Consultative Group on the Past was announced on 22 June 2007 and launched its report on 28 January 2009. The cost to the public purse since the Group's establishment has been £1.28 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Draft Legislative Programme

Hywel Williams: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on his draft legislative programme for 2009-10 prior to its publication; and if he will make a statement. [283980]

The Prime Minister: I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales (Peter Hain) have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects, including on the legislative programme.

Eastern Europe

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions since June 2007 he has met *(a)* President Václav Klaus of the Czech Republic, *(b)* President Lech Kaczynski of Poland and *(c)* President Dmitri Medvedev of the Russian Federation. [282723]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with European leaders, including at European Council meetings and G8 and G20 summits.

I last met President Václav Klaus on 8 November 2007 in London. I last met President Lech Kaczynski at the European Council meeting on 18-19 June 2009 in Brussels. I last met President Dmitri Medvedev at the G20 summit on 1 April 2009 in London.

Email

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister whether members of the public are able to email the Prime Minister. [283505]

The Prime Minister: Yes.

Intelligence and Security Committee: Manpower

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* name, *(b)* job title and *(c)* date of appointment to post is of each member of staff providing support to the Intelligence and Security Committee. [282674]

The Prime Minister: The current Clerk of the Intelligence and Security Committee is Emma-Louise Avery, a Cabinet Office senior civil servant appointed through open competition in January 2006. The Clerk is supported in her duties by a deputy and three assistants. Administrative support is provided by an office manager and a personal secretary. It is established practice not to disclose the personal details of staff appointments below the senior civil service.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's *(a)* target and *(b)* actual performance for the time taken to respond to correspondence was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [284156]

Ann McKechin: Details of the Scotland Office correspondence performance targets and actual figures are published each year in our annual report, which can be accessed at:

www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280553]

Ann McKechin: For these purposes the Scotland Office sits within the corporate framework of the Ministry of Justice. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 540W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [283158]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not have any members of staff working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

TREASURY

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any full-time equivalent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to legacy planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [283163]

Mr. Byrne: HM Treasury and its associated public bodies have a number of staff involved in working across Government and with other partners on these issues as part of their wider roles.

Members: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Ashford of 23 October 2008, reference 62109/2008. [266388]

Mr. Timms: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. E. Warne. [273753]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. E Warne. [283359]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

National Insurance

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what upgrade is being undertaken to the National Insurance computer system; what assessment he has made of the effect of the upgrade on *(a)* access to National Insurance records and *(b)* the time taken to process new claims for retirement pension; and when he expects the upgrade to be completed. [284245]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has upgraded the National Insurance computer system as part of its continuing process of improvements to its customer service. The new PAYE service will introduce one single record for an individual's PAYE pay and tax details irrespective of the number of PAYE sources of income they have. This will result in more accurate tax codes and also enable HMRC to deal with the vast majority of customer enquiries at one point of contact.

Apart from a brief planned service interruption before the changeover to the New PAYE Service on 29 June 2009, it has not affected access to National Insurance records. All customer enquiries and NI processing are being dealt with as normal. In particular it has not had any impact on claims for the state pension, which is administered by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Public Service Delivery

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to co-ordinate the improvement of public service delivery. [283141]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* HM Treasury works closely with the Cabinet Office on coordinating and monitoring delivery of key initiatives. The Government have recently set out its approach to improving public services in publications such as Excellence and Fairness: Achieving World Class Public Services; Working Together: Public Services on your side and Building Britain's Future.

The approaches outlined support the Public Service Agreements which set out the Government's top priorities for improving public services and other outcomes. At the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, the Government set out 30 cross-departmental PSAs covering areas such as better health and wellbeing, safer communities and educational standards. Progress on PSAs is reported to Parliament in the Departmental Annual Reports and the Autumn Performance Report. The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit within the Treasury works closely with other government departments to support improvements to public services through the delivery of cross-departmental PSAs.

WALES

Correspondence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's *(a)* target and *(b)* actual performance for the time taken to respond to correspondence was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [284157]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office publishes correspondence statistics in its annual report and to the Cabinet Office for their annual report to Parliament.

The Wales Office aims to respond to written correspondence within 15 working days. As reported in my Department's annual report, 90 per cent. was answered within the time scale during 2008-09.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what information databases the Government Equalities Office *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284382]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not maintain any computer databases that contain personal information.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in the last 12 months. [282784]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance—cases in payment

2008	Barnsley	Doncaster
February	2,690	3,360
May	2,690	3,380
August	2,730	3,430
November	2,810	3,480

Notes:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement, but who do not actually receive carer's allowance, for example, because of the overlapping benefits rule.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate.

Carer's Allowance: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* the London borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [282572]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance—cases in payment caseloads by local authority and constituency of claimant: November 2008

	Number
Enfield Local Authority	2,170
Enfield North Parliamentary Constituency	840

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement, but who do not actually receive carer's allowance, for example, because of the overlapping benefits rule.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability Living Allowance: Epilepsy

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with epilepsy in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland claim disability living allowance; and what the cost to the public purse of such benefits was in the latest period for which figures are available. [282983]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance: epilepsy cases in payment, November 2008, and estimated cost in 2008-09

	Disability living allowance, epilepsy cases in payment November 2008	*Estimated cost in 2008-09 (£ million), cash prices*
England	56,400	198
Scotland	8,600	31
Wales	4,700	15

Notes:

Cases in Payment are Caseload Totals. These show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. Latest available data are presented here. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Caseload Numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample rated in line with the DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) total caseload, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

Estimated caseloads for 2008-09 are the average of caseloads at August and November 2008. Expenditure estimated using 5 per cent. data is adjusted by the ratio of total expenditure estimated on 5 per cent. data to outturn total expenditure. Estimated costs are subject to revision when February 2009 caseloads are available.

From October 2008 the way in which a disabling condition is recorded on the live system changed. Disabling conditions are now recorded as primary and secondary, (previously recorded as disability care and mobility codes). For existing cases a mapping exercise was carried out which assigned disability care code to primary disabling condition and disability mobility code to secondary condition. IFD have updated the methodology used to derive main disabling condition to reflect this change in the live system.

A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes

Sources:

Caseloads: DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample. Cases included are those where epilepsy is the main disabling condition.

Estimated cost: based on applying allowance rates to estimated caseload by care and mobility rate and adjusting by ratio of total outturn estimated from 5 per cent. sample to actual total outturn.

5

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 July 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Hutton Inquiry

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish, redacted as necessary for reasons of national security, witness statements submitted to the Hutton Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr David Kelly. [283371]

The Prime Minister: Publication of material provided to the Inquiry was a matter for Lord Hutton.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister (1) by what method and in what form witnesses giving evidence to the Committee of Inquiry on Iraq will do so when giving evidence on a basis equivalent to evidence given under oath; and if he will make a statement; [283368]

(2) what provision is being made to meet the *(a)* per diem and *(b)* other expenses incurred by (i) right hon. Sir John Chilcot and (ii) other members of the Committee of Inquiry on Iraq in relation to their work on the inquiry; [283369]

(3) if he will direct the Committee of Inquiry on Iraq to publish a list of those Privy Council members serving on the Committee who attend each closed session of the inquiry; [283370]

(4) if he will make it his policy that a verbatim record of public sessions of the Chilcot Inquiry is published daily; [283372]

(5) what plans there are to appoint legal counsel to support the Chilcot Inquiry into Iraq; [283458]

(6) whether those invited to serve on the Committee of Inquiry into Iraq were given guidance prior to accepting on the *(a)* likely time commitment involved and *(b)* duration of the inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [283459]

(7) whether witnesses to the Chilcot Inquiry into Iraq will be permitted legal representation; and if he will make a statement; [283460]

(8) who the secretary to the Chilcot Committee of Inquiry into Iraq will be. [283461]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to my letter of 17 June 2009 to the right hon. Sir John Chilcot GCB and to his reply of 21 June 2009. Copies of both have been placed in the Libraries of the House. As Chairman, Sir John, in consultation with the Inquiry Committee members, will take decisions on how the inquiry conducts its work. The costs of the inquiry will be met by the Government. The secretary to the inquiry will be Ms Margaret Aldred CB CBE, who is a senior Cabinet Office official.

Lord Paul of Marylebone

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions Lord Paul of Marylebone has visited 10 Downing Street on official business in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [281910]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

CABINET OFFICE

Aviation

John Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of jobs in the UK dependent on the aviation industry. [282417]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

This Department does not produce estimates of the number of jobs in the UK dependent on the aerospace or aviation industries.

The Society of British Aerospace Companies—the national trade association for the aerospace sector—estimates that 100,740 people were directly employed in the aerospace sector in 2008. This includes those employed in manufacturing of aircraft, systems, engines and equipment.

Figures for the air transport industry are included in the Office of National Statistics employment figures in their Annual Business Enquiry. Their latest figures for total employment averaged over the year of 2007 indicate that 93,000 people were employed directly in the air transport industry and a further 48,000 people were employed in other activities supporting air transport. These figures relate primarily to those involved in transport of passengers or freight by air but do not cover all those employed at airports for retail, catering, baggage handling etc.

Charities: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps have been taken to promote the Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders schemes to charitable organisations in the West Midlands. [283850]

Angela E. Smith: All Capacitybuilders programmes are promoted in the West Midlands through a mixture of regional events, e-bulletins and through local ChangeUp consortia. Capacitybuilders is based in the West Midlands and they have a regional manager for the West Midlands.

Futurebuilders England has taken steps to promote the fund in the West Midlands. There have been a number of events to specifically promote the Futurebuilders Fund in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire.

Both Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders are working together to deliver the new £16.5 million modernisation fund. Both organisations promoted the fund at the Office of the Third Sector's road show in Birmingham on 27 April, where over 60 delegates representing third sector organisations in the West Midlands attended.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost of *(a)* press officers and *(b)* other press office staff in No. 10 Downing Street has been in each year since 1997; [283061]

(2) what the cost to her Department of employing press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283083]

Tessa Jowell: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

For the cost of Press Officers I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) and the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1733W.

Information dating back to 1997 on the cost of press officer staff other than press officers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much time was spent on Ministerial duties between 4 May 2009 and 5 June 2009 by each Minister in her Department who is also a Member of the House of Commons. [282819]

Tessa Jowell: During this period, Cabinet Office Ministers continued to spend as much time on their ministerial duties as necessary for them to be fulfilled.

Futurebuilders Fund: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many loans of each type have been provided from the Futurebuilders programme to organisations in each constituency in Essex since the inception of that scheme. [283894]

Angela E. Smith: To date, Futurebuilders England has invested over £3 million to five organisations in Essex. By constituency, Futurebuilders England has invested in one organisation in Brentwood and Ongar; one in Rochford and Southend, East; and three in West Chelmsford.

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners in households with a net income of less than £130 a week in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* the UK in each of the last five years. [275242]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information that is available is shown in the following table.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government Office Region. The latest available information on pensioner incomes is for 2007-08 and figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Therefore information is provided for years up to and including 2007-08 based on an income of £130 per week, deflated to the price levels of the years in question.

Pensioner units with a net income after housing costs of less than £130 per week (deflated to prices of years measured)

million

	2001-02 to 2003-04	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006-07*	*2005-06 to 2007-08*
East of England					
Couples	—	—	—	—	—
Singles	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
UK					
Couples	n/a	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Singles	n/a	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4

Notes:

1. Net income after housing costs is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits less direct taxes and housing costs which include rent, water rates and mortgage interest payments.

2. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes.

3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

4. "—" indicates a value less than 50,000

5. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.

6. Pensioner units are either a single pensioner over State Pension age (65 and over for men or 60 and over for women) or pensioner couples. Pensioner couples are couples where at least one member is over State Pension age.

7. Prior to 2002-03 the FRS survey only covered households in Great Britain. Therefore it is not possible to provide estimates for the UK for years before 2002-03.

8. The deflated values of £130 were £124.18 in 2007-08, £120.35 in 2006-07, £116.39 in 2005-06, £113.81 in 2004-05, £111.47 in 2003-04, £108.87 in 2002-03 and £106.32 in 2001-02.

Source:

Pensioners' Incomes Series (derived from the FRS survey)

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Private Members' Bills commenced in the House have required Queen's Consent in *(a)* the last three Sessions and *(b)* in the current Session to date; what the (i) average and (ii) longest time between an hon. Member asking her Department to apply for consent and that consent actually being applied for was in (A) each of the last three Sessions and (B) in the current Session to date; what the (1) average and (2) longest time between her Department's applying for and receiving Queen's Consent was in each such period;

on how many occasions Queen's Consent has arrived in a period of 72 hours preceding a Bill's scheduled second reading in each such period; and if she will make a statement. [274629]

Angela E. Smith: Information about the number of private Members' Bills requiring Queen's Consent is set out in the following table. The rest of the information requested is not collated centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Private Members' Bills requiring Queen's Consent

Session	*On second reading*	*On third reading*
2005-06	5	1
2006-07	3	1
2007-08	3	0
2008-09 (to date)	2	1

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the Government funding allocated to third sector organisations in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [284212]

Angela E. Smith: The latest information held by the Office of the Third Sector relates to estimates of central Government spending on the third sector in 2005-06 and estimates of local government spending on the third sector in 2003-04.

These figures show that central Government spending on the third sector in 2005-06 is estimated at £5.4 billion. Local government spending on the third sector in 2003-04 is estimated at £4.2 billion.

Both reports are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Research_and_statistics/third_sector_research/expenditure.aspx

For auditing reasons, there is a time lag for officially published data but the NCVO Civil Society Almanac provides an estimate of the total amount of public funding received by general charities and for 2006-07 they put this figure at £12 billion.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information is held by *(a)* the Office for the Third Sector and *(b)* her Department on the level of Government funding for (i) charities, (ii) voluntary organisations and (iii) social enterprises. [284213]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector publishes information on central and local government spending on the third sector. Latest figures relate to central Government spending on the third sector in 2005-06, and local government spending on the third sector in 2003-04. However it is not possible to show funding for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises separately.

Both reports are published and available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Research_and_statistics/third_sector_research/expenditure.aspx

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of her Department's programmes allocate funding to charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations. [284278]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector, in Cabinet Office runs a variety of programmes allocating funding to charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations. Expenditure on these programmes and programme descriptions are reported annually in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts.

OLYMPICS

Mass Media: Olympic Games 2012

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Olympic Delivery Authority spent on media monitoring services in each of the last three years; and which organisations provided such services. [280014]

Tessa Jowell: Over the past three years, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has spent the following on media monitoring services:

	Supplier	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	Lexis Nexis (online newspaper and magazine archive)	2,264.45
2007-08	Factiva (online newspaper and magazine archive) TNS Media (broadcast monitoring)	11,600.92
2008-09	Digital Media Services Hawk (broadcast media) Factiva TNS Media	32,422.50

This increase is due to the fact that, in the earlier stages of the project, more of the monitoring costs were borne by the privately funded London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and also a reflection of the increasing national and international coverage of the games in both print and broadcast media.

Costs for electronic monitoring of newspapers and magazines are covered by LOCOG.

Olympic Games 2012: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions her Office has had with the Local Government Association on the East of England's *(a)* participation in and *(b)* legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [277778]

Tessa Jowell: There has been regular discussion with the East of England at a local level, with local authorities and through public consultation events since 2007 by my officials, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

I also visited Norwich in November 2008 and spent some time meeting and discussing with councillors and members of the local authority about the plans for 2012 and how they can ensure that they maximise the opportunities they present.

The East of England will be hosting the mountain biking competition at Hadleigh Farm in Essex and the white-water canoe slalom will be staged in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. The region will also benefit from the legacy of the games in the form of a world-class community and elite use white-water canoe centre at Broxbourne.

I was delighted to award Essex county council a Beacon Award in March this year recognising the effectiveness of the council for its work on Olympic and Paralympic legacy. The Beacon scheme is a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in local government.

In 2007, the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) was set up by LOCOG and the Government Olympic Executive to build on the excitement and interest the games has inspired across the UK. The Local Government Association (LGA) has been present on the group since its inception and is represented by Councillor Chris White, who is also Chair of the LGA's Culture, Tourism and Sport Board. At the LGA conference in December 2008, I set out progress so far and the Government's plans for the future alongside Charles Allen, the Chair of the NRG.

Local government was instrumental in the success of the 2008 Open Weekend when some 655 events across the country engaged some 700,000 people in London 2012 community, sporting and cultural events. The *LGA and local authorities throughout the UK* again have the opportunity to use the London 2012 Open Weekend held from the 24 to the 26 July to inspire people to get involved with a range of culture, sport, sustainability and learning activities to celebrate the UK hosting the games in 2012.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Cleaning Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations provided cleaning services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was in each such year. [280758]

Ann McKechin: Cleaning services for the Scotland Office is undertaken by various companies. The following table details the various companies and expenditure. Waste collection is also included in the information as some contracts cover both cleaning services and waste collection.

Company	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	£ *2008-09*
OCS Group UK Ltd. T/a Cannon	890.01	819.88	748.76
Hannay	2,021.40	—	—
Palmer & Co.	—	—	1,080.00
Lancaster Office Cleaning Company	25,314.80	26,065.82	25,592.97
Serco Integrated Services	21,495.92	20,257.50	23,351.81
Shanks Waste Management Ltd.	1,435.25	3,120.95	1,428.10
MacDET Hygiene Services Ltd.	—	460.00	—
Total expenditure by year	51,157.38	50,724.15	52,201.64

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used on his Department's estate in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280526]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office did not centrally record its electricity and gas usage for the years 2004 to 2009. Information about utility usage has however been recorded since the beginning of this financial year.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280537]

Ann McKechin: Exact figures for energy efficiency measures are not available in the requested format. All works carried out where possible include measures designed to improve energy efficiency but those measures are not costed separately.

Energy efficiency in the Scotland Office's London branch is measured by the Display Energy Certificate that the building is required to have under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. A copy of the certificate and the associated advisory report have been placed in the Library of the House.

Plans for future energy efficiency measures across the Government estate are described in the Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate Delivery Plan Update (December 2008).

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost to his Department of *(a)* press officers and *(b)* other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283067]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The cost to the Department of press office staff is as follows:

	£
1999-2000[1]	44,078
2000-01	139,705
2001-02	134,702
2002-03	135,919
2203-04	114,643

	£
2004-05	105,266
2005-06	93,114
2006-07	[2]70,283
2007-08	113,236
2008-09	124,373

[1] Part year.

[2] Running under complement.

The press office provides support to Scotland Office Ministers and officials, as well as the Office of the Advocate General. It has also been involved in providing logistical support to the Commission on Scottish Devolution and the Boundary Commission for Scotland. It operates a 24-hour on-call service for Ministers and has the responsibility for maintaining the Scotland Office website and media planning across the office.

Public Consultation

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what mechanism his Department has in place to monitor the content of comments submitted by members of the public to his ministerial blog. [284201]

Ann McKechin: The blogging software integrated into the Scotland Office website automatically stores comments for moderation before they are published live, in line with good web practice.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many senior civil servants in his Department are paid an annual salary of more than £64,766. [284329]

Paul Goggins: 28 members of the senior civil service working within the Northern Ireland Office received a salary in excess of £64,766 in the financial year 2008-09.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many senior civil servants in his Department who received an annual salary of more than £63,291 in financial year 2008-09 were paid a bonus; and how much bonus was paid in each case. [284330]

Paul Goggins: 26 members of the senior civil service working in the Northern Ireland Office and receiving a salary in excess of £63,291 in the financial year 2008-09 were awarded non-consolidated performance payments in line with the Government's response to the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. These payments ranged between £4,000 and £18,000.

Police: Museum

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in the establishment of a police museum in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [284331]

Paul Goggins: An outline business case for a new police museum was submitted to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in April 2009, following work done by the RUC George Cross Foundation with support and advice from the NIO. Before any decision can be taken, consideration needs to be given to the case in the context of the current financial environment, the project's relationship with other work on the past, and the range of funding options.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

EU Laws

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283481]

Barbara Follett: No estimate has been made of the cost to the Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation on matters for which it is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months.

World Heritage Sites

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to continue to accept applications from additional cultural sites for inclusion in the UK's tentative list of future nominations for World Heritage status. [283419]

Barbara Follett: My Department is currently reviewing its World Heritage Policy. As part of this we have held a public consultation and are analysing the results. A decision on whether to revise the current UK tentative list of possible nominations for World Heritage inscription will be made in the autumn based upon this analysis.

If we do decide to prepare a new tentative list then all interested sites will be considered for inclusion on it and appropriate guidelines on the process will be made available.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Initiative

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much on average the Access to Work initiative has paid to employers per registered person to date. [280630]

Jonathan Shaw: Access to Work is a specialist disability programme delivered by Jobcentre Plus, which provides practical advice and support to disabled individuals either in paid employment or with a job or work trial to start. It helps to overcome work related obstacles resulting from their disability through a system of grants towards the cost of providing support. The programme reimburses costs incurred either by the individual or by any third party on their behalf. The programme does not therefore directly fund employers. In 2008-09 the Access to Work programme spent £81,223,332[1].

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[1] This figure is an indicative one for the 2008-09 operating year and is subject to sign off of the DWP Resource Accounts by the National Audit Office.

Asbestos

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department issues to *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees on risks arising from the presence of asbestos in commercial properties. [283456]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The Health and Safety Executive has produced a number of pieces of guidance for employers and employees on asbestos in commercial properties:

Two Approved Codes of Practice; "Work with Materials Containing Asbestos" and "The Management of Asbestos in Non-domestic Premises".

Two guidance documents for those who manage buildings: "A Comprehensive Guide to Managing Asbestos in Premises'" and "A Short Guide to Managing Asbestos in Premises". An online guidance tool to help those responsible for managing asbestos in buildings is about to be launched.

Two further documents for employers and employees who work with asbestos such as building maintenance trades in commercial properties: "Introduction to Asbestos Essentials", and "Asbestos Essentials".

In addition, a number of free leaflets are available in hard copy and on the HSE website; "Manage Buildings? You Must Manage Asbestos", the "Duty to Manage Checklist" and 'Guidance for Safety Representatives". HSE and partner organisations have been campaigning to raise awareness among tradesmen most recently through the Hidden Killer campaign which included radio and press advertising and a campaign leaflet and flyer.

Carer's Allowance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has made an estimate of the effect on the number of carers eligible for carer's allowance of raising the current earnings threshold for eligibility to *(a)* £150, *(b)* £200 and *(c)* £250 per week. [283191]

Jonathan Shaw: Data limitations and lack of information regarding carers' eligibility for carer's allowance mean that we are unable to estimate accurately the effect on the number of eligible carers of extending the earnings limit.

We recognise the importance of supporting carers who want to combine work with caring. However, we also need to maintain a balance between the income of carers on benefits who can combine paid work with caring, and those who cannot.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* consultants for and *(c)* employees of her Department travelled to Alicante for the launch of the We're closing in campaign; how many nights of accommodation were paid for from the public purse; and how much this exercise cost. [277053]

Helen Goodman: The launch of the benefit fraud hotline took place on Thursday 25 September 2008. One Minister and two DWP officials travelled to Alicante the previous evening and stayed one night. No consultants were involved in the event. The cost of this exercise was approximately £4,200.00.

Departmental Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will assess the merits of providing the face-to-face services administered by her Department's agencies in partnership with the post office network. [282583]

Helen Goodman: The Government have now agreed a new contract for the Post office card account with Post Office Ltd. The contract will run through to March 2015, with the option of a two-year extension beyond that. The Government are looking to see whether more of their services can be delivered through post offices and my Department is taking an active part in those discussions. We want to deliver services in the most efficient way, which deliver both value for money and provide the best customer service. And we are always open to ideas about the role that the post office can play in that.

Departmental Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations her Department has made to the Telephone Helplines Association on the inclusion of her Department's benefit helplines on their industry list; and what estimate she has made of the savings which would result to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* service users. [278376]

Jim Knight: My Department believes strongly that calls to its 0800 numbers should be free to mobile phone users as they already are for callers from landlines. Officials from the Department have accordingly approached the Telephone Helplines Association and are now in discussion with mobile telephone operators seeking to secure the Department's customers a free service when contacting the Department's 0800 numbers via a mobile phone.

The respective costs and savings will depend on the arrangements entered into by operators and the Department.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of disability living allowance have had the mobility component of their allowance amended from the higher rate to the lower rate in the last 12 months. [274378]

Jonathan Shaw: In the year to November 2008, 4,470 disability living allowance recipients were recorded as having higher mobility award in payment which was subsequently reduced to a lower rate mobility award.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. The figure quoted shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. The number of recipients to have moved from a higher to a lower rate mobility award over the 12 month period was derived by identifying those people on consecutive scans whose mobility rate had changed from higher to lower in each available quarter i.e. November 2007 to February 2008, February 2008 to May 2008, May 2008 to August 2008 and August 2008 to November 2008. This is an approximation and will include, for example, some who leave disability living allowance and make a second successful claim within the quarter at the lower rate, and those on the higher rate whose level of award is reviewed and revised to the lower rate from the start of the claim.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability Living Allowance: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance in Tamworth constituency gave a severe visual impairment as a reason for claiming. [282430]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

Disability living allowance cases in payment where blindness/visual disorder is recorded as the main disabling condition, November 2008

	Number
Tamworth parliamentary constituency	10

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. From October 2008 the way in which the disabling condition is recorded on the live system changed. Disabling conditions are now recorded as primary and secondary, (previously recorded as disability care and mobility codes). For existing cases a mapping exercise was carried out which assigned disability care code to primary disabling condition and disability mobility code to secondary condition. Information Directorate has updated the methodology used to derive main disabling condition to reflect this change in the live system. The old category D08 (blindness) is now subdivided into a range of more specific condition codes. These are referred to by the over-arching title "Visual Disorder".

3. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5 per cent. sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5 per cent. sample (some recipients of disability living allowance who transferred from the attendance allowance system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time). In this case the WPLS data have been used as some of the caseload figures produced are very small and so would have a high level of statistical variation should the sample data have been used.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disabled: Discrimination

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W, on the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, if she will publish reviews of contractors' compliance with disability discrimination legislation. [283356]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has no plans to publish reviews of contractors' compliance with disability discrimination legislation.

All DWP welfare to work contracts include detailed terms and conditions relevant to the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. DWP contract management processes are designed to ensure that contractors comply with all statutory and legislative requirements. In addition, external inspection and validation will ensure the quality and accuracy of their activities.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assistance for returning to work will be given to existing incapacity benefit claimants who are not in the invest to save pathfinder areas once they have transferred on to the employment and support allowance; [255116]

(2) whether the back-to-work regime for existing incapacity benefit claimants who have transferred on to the employment and support allowance (ESA) will be the same as for new ESA claimants. [255117]

Jonathan Shaw: The Pathways to Work programme was first introduced in pilot areas in October 2003. It has always been available to existing incapacity benefits claimants on a voluntary basis, as has our suite of specialist disability employment provision. In April 2008 Pathways to Work completed its national roll-out and is now accessible by everybody receiving incapacity benefits and Employment and Support Allowance in Great Britain.

Conditionality regimes for existing incapacity benefits and Employment and Support Allowance claimants are set out in the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' (Cm 7506).

Upon transfer to Employment and Support Allowance, existing incapacity benefits claimants not in the "invest to save" pathfinder areas will receive:

(i) three mandatory Work Focused Interviews and access to other elements of the Pathways to Work programme, for claimants aged under 50;

(ii) one mandatory Work Focused Interview and access to other elements of Pathways to Work for claimants aged 50 and above; and

(iii) pilots trialing new forms of support for claimants aged 50 and above.

In addition to the above, claimants will continue to have access to the Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Adviser who can offer advice on the range of specialist disability provision for those with complex disability related barriers to work. A new specialist disability programme will be introduced in October 2010 to replace some of the existing provision.

Nationally, new Employment and Support Allowance claimants will continue to have access to back to work support through Pathways to Work. From late 2010 we will extend to two years the period during which new claimants are required to engage with us through work-focused interviews. In addition Employment and Support Allowance claimants in progression to work pathfinder areas, or personalised employment programme pilots, will be required to undertake work related activity in certain circumstances from 2010.

Claimants placed in the Support Group will not be required to undertake any mandatory activities, although they will be able to volunteer for back-to-work support.

Once disabled people have secured a job or have a firm job offer they may also be eligible for the Access to Work programme which can assist with the costs of support to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if her Department will add those in receipt of high care component of Disability Living Allowance to the list of those considered as having limited capability for work for employment and support allowance. [282897]

Jonathan Shaw: Receipt of Disability Living Allowance at any level does not automatically mean that a person will be considered as having limited capability for work for the purposes of Employment and Support Allowance. Entitlement criteria for Employment and Support Allowance are based on functional ability, not on the benefits an individual receives or their diagnosis. Entitlement to Disability Living Allowance depends on a person's care and mobility needs, not their capability for work. Each person is assessed on an individual basis to determine whether their level of functional ability is such that it is unreasonable to require them to work.

Energy Supply: Disclosure of Information

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when her Department expects to begin data-sharing with energy suppliers. [283248]

Angela Eagle: DWP and DECC are working with energy suppliers on the precise details of this project, we are hoping to start operating the scheme by the end of the financial year 2009-10.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to bring forward proposals to reform the housing benefit regime, as referred to on page 43 of the Building Britain's Future document. [283668]

Helen Goodman: As was set out in the Building Britain's Future document, we intend to consult on the reform of housing benefit later on this year.

Housing Benefit: Local Housing Allowance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of housing benefit claimants who have cancelled their benefit immediately prior to making a claim for local housing allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [281661]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent guidance her Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus offices on waiting times in jobcentres; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [271620]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent guidance his Department has issued to Jobcentre Plus offices on waiting times in jobcentres; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Whilst we have not issued any specific guidance on waiting times, as part of our commitment to service standards, we always try to see customers on time if they have an appointment. To help manage rising business volumes we have implemented a number of related measures. These include speeding-up the recruitment, training and deployment of additional staff; and adopting a first-available personal adviser approach to make more effective use of resources and to minimise waiting times.

Pathways to Work

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what disability impact assessments there have been under provider-led Pathways to Work arrangements in respect of persons with a mental health condition in the last 12 months. [277736]

Jonathan Shaw: A Disability Equality Impact Assessment on Pathways to Work rollout and incapacity benefits reform was published on 9 May 2007.

It can be accessed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/docs/DEIA.pdf

An externally commissioned impact study into provider-led pathways, reporting in June 2010 will include impact assessments for those with mental health conditions.

Pension Credit: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Peterborough, *(d)* Huntingdonshire and *(e)* the East of England region received pension credit in each year since the inception of the scheme. [283417]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Households in receipt of pension credit November 2003 to November 2008

November each year	North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency	Peterborough local authority	Huntingdonshire local authority	Cambridgeshire county	East of England
2003	2,430	5,340	3,100	13,280	159,940
2004	3,360	6,950	4,420	18,580	215,210
2005	3,550	7,140	4,710	19,440	223,030
2006	3,590	7,240	4,480	19,760	226,900
2007	3,630	7,420	4,800	19,620	227,040

Households in receipt of pension credit November 2003 to November 2008

November each year	*North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency*	*Peterborough local authority*	*Huntingdonshire local authority*	*Cambridgeshire county*	*East of England*
2008	3,610	7,380	4,750	19,530	226,880

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have received pension credit in each year since its inception. [282061]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Households in receipt of pension credit in Essex and Castle Point

November each year	*Essex*	*Castle Point*
2003	38,390	2,680
2004	52,370	3,740
2005	54,190	3,910
2006	55,380	4,030
2007	55,500	4,130
2008	55,870	4,200

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the South East received pension credit in each year since its introduction; [284426]

(2) how many pension credit recipients live in Hemel Hempstead. [283670]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table:

Households in receipt of pension credit November 2003 to November 2008

November each year	*Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency*	*Dacorum local authority*	*Hertfordshire county*	*South East*
2003	2,570	3,280	25,130	205,480
2004	3,450	4,390	33,010	271,000
2005	3,520	4,480	34,050	280,270
2006	3,500	4,470	34,410	284,930
2007	3,490	4,460	34,290	285,940
2008	3,430	4,380	34,080	286,680

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pensioners: Income

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage change in household income for (i) a single pensioner and (ii) a pensioner couple in receipt of (A) basic state pension and (B) income support under the minimum income guarantee since 1997. [276267]

Angela Eagle: The information that is available is shown in the following table. Figures are presented in 2007-08 prices in order to allow real terms comparisons.

Average weekly net income after housing costs of pensioner units by receipt of income support for pensioners/pension credit and state pension, 2007-08 prices

	1996-97 (£)	*2007-08 (£)*	*Percentage change in real terms*
Income support for pensioners/pension credit			
Couples	279	395	42
Singles	124	187	51
State pension recipients			
Couples	295	415	41
Singles	129	193	50

Notes:
1. Figures are expressed in 2007-08 prices.
2. Net income after housing costs is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits, less direct taxes including council tax and housing costs which include rent, water rates and mortgage interest payments.
3. Based on the Family Resources Survey and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
Source:
Pensioners' Incomes Series

Remploy: Finance

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what grant funding her Department provided for Remploy in 2008-09; and how much it has allocated to Remploy for 2009-10. [283348]

Jonathan Shaw: The Remploy modernisation plan agreed core grant funding for Remploy of £121.5 million in 2008-09 and £118.5 million in 2009-10.

The Minister for Disabled People will submit a statement to the House about Remploy's performance and expenditure in 2008-09 and targets for 2009-10 in the autumn.

Welfare Reform Bill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards she plans to put in place to ensure that those who are paid benefits in error under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill will not be subject to the sanctions proposed by that Bill if enacted; and if she will make a statement. [274347]

Jim Knight: In cases where benefit has been paid in error then, under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill, sanctions would not apply.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Climate Change

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of intensive livestock farming on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [283741]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has commissioned a number of studies, some of which are ongoing, to assess the environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from several agricultural commodities throughout their lifecycle. This includes assessment of livestock production under intensive livestock systems. The most relevant studies are listed:

Project AC0204—A study of the scope for the application of research in animal genomics and breeding to reduce nitrogen and methane emissions from livestock based food chains - published in April 2008.

Project IS0222—Developing and delivering environmental Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) of agricultural systems - due to be completed in September 2009.

Project AC0210—Economic and environmental impacts of livestock production in the UK - due to be completed in July 2010.

Animal Feed

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made on the effect on the environment of the livestock industry's use of soy-based animal feed; and if he will make a statement. [283742]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While no formal assessment has been made, we are currently considering the impact of the use of soya-based animal feed on the environment. In view of soya-based meal being a by-product of oil production, and there currently being no other mainstream uses for this by-product, reduction in its use for animal feed may not therefore lead to a reduction in soya bean production itself. Whatever feed source was to replace soya based feed would also have its own environmental impact.

DEFRA is funding ongoing research in conjunction with industry to look at alternative home grown protein rich animal feed crops, such as lupin, and assess the impact of such alternatives for both the environment and the livestock industry.

Animal Health: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each office of Animal Health and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [282140]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I will place this information in the Library.

Animal Health: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Animal Health Agency in each of the last five years. [280608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table details how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Animal Health Agency.

Data are for the last three years only, reflecting whole financial years that Animal Health has been a separate financial entity from DEFRA.

£

	Group[1]	*Bonus type*	*Type total*[2]	*Group total*[3]	*Annual total*	*Grand total*
2008	Directors	Special	3,704.00	—	—	—
		Annual	53,500.00	—	—	—
				57,204.00	—	—
	Senior managers	Special	62,929.00		—	—
		Annual	2,850.48	—	—	—
				65,779.48	—	—
	Specialist and delivery managers	Special	94,279.00	—	—	—
		Annual	2,341.51	—	—	—

£

	Group[1]	Bonus type	Type total[2]	Group total[3]	Annual total	Grand total
				96,620.51	—	—
	Executive support and admin staff	Special	124,144.00	—	—	—
		Annual	7,149.08	—	—	—
				131,293.08	—	—
				—	350,897.07	—
2007	Directors	Special	44,000.00	—	—	—
		Annual		—	—	—
				44,000.00	—	—
	Senior managers	Special	50,148.00	—	—	—
		Annual	1,971.42	—	—	—
				52,119.42	—	—
	Specialist and delivery managers	Special	98,445.00	—	—	—
		Annual	2,200.02	—	—	—
				100,645.02	—	—
	Executive support and admin staff	Special	135,841.00	—	—	—
		Annual	9,528.57	—	—	—
				145,369.57	—	—
				—	342,134.01	—
2006	Directors	Special	33,000.00	—	—	—
		Annual		—	—	—
				33,000.00	—	—
	Senior managers	Special	51,738.00		—	
		Annual	2,900.00	—	—	—
				54,638.00	—	—
	Specialist and delivery managers	Special	79,511.00	—	—	—
		Annual	24,625.00	—	—	—
				104,136.00	—	—
	Executive support and admin staff	Special	114,235.00	—	—	—
		Annual	26,995.00	—	—	—
				141,230.00	—	—
				—	333,004.00	—
				—	—	1,026,035.08

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[1] The standard grades have been categorised into these groups as follows: *Directors:* Senior civil service. *Senior managers:* Grade 6, Grade 7, senior executive officer, regional operations director. *Specialist and delivery managers:* Veterinary officer, senior animal health officer, animal health officer, regional field manager, technical team leader, regional veterinary leader, veterinary team leader, egg marketing inspector, regional egg marketing inspector. *Executive support and admin staff:* Regional resilience manager, regional administration manager, higher executive officer, executive officer, administrative officer, administrative assistant, personal secretary. Pay band 2.0 Department of Environment and Transport (DETR), Pay band 5.3 DETR, Support Grade Band 1

[2] Data are based on the current staff listings. The figures do not include any staff paid bonuses in the last three years who are no longer with the agency.

[3] Data are based on the individual's current grade. Anyone who has been promoted in the last three years will be shown at their current grade, not at the grade they were when the bonus was received.

Dairy Farmers of Britain

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make *(a)* an estimate of the cost and *(b)* an assessment of compatibility with EU state-aid rules of provision of compensation to members of the Dairy Farmers of Britain co-operative for the loss of payments for milk supplied to the co-operative in May 2009. [283216]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In response:

(a) The Receivers (PwC) have estimated that the total financial costs to farmers who were members and former members of Dairy Farmers of Britain on 3 June are around £83 million.

(b) The proportion of this figure which arises from the failure to pay the May milk cheques is a matter for the Receiver.

Government have considered whether we can compensate farmers, but do not plan to do so.

Dairy Farming: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dairy farmers there were in each of the last three years; and how many *(a)* entered and *(b)* left the sector in each year. [283642]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not collect figures on the number of farmers who enter and leave the dairy sector in each year. Figures from the June Survey of Agriculture only indicate activity on registered holdings in England at June each year and therefore show net change only.

The number of farmers on holdings where dairy is the predominant activity are shown in the following table. Prior to 2007 the method of categorising holdings into predominant farming activity was calculated using responses from the June Survey. From 2007 onwards data from the Cattle Tracing System has been used. Numbers of dairy holdings for 2006 are shown using both data sources for comparison. To show the overall trend across the change in data source a longer time series has also been included.

		Number of dairy holdings[1]	
	Number of farmers	*Survey data*	*CTS data*
2000	31,481	15,219	—
2001	30,178	14,293	—
2002	30,425	14,537	—
2003	28,918	13,770	—
2004	28,057	13,264	—
2005	26,168	12,918	—
2006	25,706	12,628	11,079
2007	21,082	—	10,649
2008	20,122	—	10,112

[1] Based on predominant farming activity.

Notes:

[1]. Farmers includes full and part time farmers, partners, directors and spouses if working on the holding.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture

Departmental Forensic Science

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department operates an in-house forensic science laboratory. [283572]

Dan Norris: The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), an executive agency of DEFRA, currently undertakes a wide range of forensic-style analyses to detect, identify and measure DNA, veterinary drugs and pesticide residues in samples from plants and animals. Most of this work is done as part of national surveillance programmes or scientific research.

FERA is exploring new ways of exploiting its extensive testing facilities and capability in a wider range of applications, including forensics, but at present it is not providing a commercial service in this field.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 816W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost is of each current major information technology project in his Department. [280756]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the earlier reply given to Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 22 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA257-58.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many qualified *(a)* lepidopterists, *(b)* botanists, *(c)* lichenologists, *(d)* bryologists and *(e)* mycologists are employed by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make an assessment of levels of recruitment and retention of personnel with qualifications in these disciplines. [284019]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The main focus of expertise in DEFRA for the fields listed is at the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

Fera employs the following numbers of specialists in the fields covered by the question:

Specialism	*Fera employees*
Lepidoptery	3
Botany	3
Lichenology	0
Bryology	0
Mycology	6

Fera has high levels of staff retention in the three specialisms in which staff are employed and, as a consequence, has no plans to recruit to these areas in the foreseeable future.

Dogs: Tagging

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have established dog microchipping schemes; and when each such scheme commenced. [284099]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not collect this information.

Fisheries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of income of fishing fleets of the operation of *(a)* the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance and *(b)* the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement. [283487]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The European Fisheries Fund (EFF), and Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) before it, aim to help the fishing industry adapt and restructure to changing circumstances. The range of grant aided measures is very broad and includes investment in harbour facilities which can have a direct impact on incomes, as well as indirect benefit through investment in fish processing and marketing to sustain and develop markets.

Mid-term evaluation of FIFG shows that 40 harbour projects and 154 processing and marketing companies were assisted between 2001 and June 2005.[1] In addition, £5.2 million was spent on launching 71 projects led by industry members, including 15 promotional and 11 market research schemes. As a direct measure to assist fishermen, £900,000 was spent financing gear selectivity trials and vessel operational efficiencies.[2]

The European Commission has appointed a consortium led by Ernst and Young to undertake the ex-post evaluation for FIFG which is to be completed by the end of 2009.

EFF is a new scheme which has operated in the UK since September 2008, and as such, it is too early to assess its impact. EFF has an indicator of gross value added for the UK specifically to measure profitability; from a baseline of £988 million in 2006, moving to £1,030 million in 2010 and £1,070 million in 2015. Full details can be found in the UK Operational Programme which is available on the Marine and Fisheries Agency website at:

www.mfa.gov.uk[3]

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[1] Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) Programme in Non-Objective 1 Areas of the United Kingdom (2000-06). Update of the mid-term evaluation, Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd., 2005.

[2] Ibid.

[3] UK Operational Programme. European Fisheries Fund, September 2008.

Floods

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of flood risk of the scenarios shown in the most recent UK climate projections. [283231]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) show that the climate in the UK is likely to change, and present probabilities for different potential climate outcomes. This information will help flood and coastal erosion risk management operating authorities, such as the Environment Agency, improve their risk-based decision making.

The parameters that are available from UKCP09 do not allow direct estimation of flood risk. Further synthesis and modelling will be necessary to assess the likely effects on levels of flood risk under the different UKCP09 projections.

However, DEFRA and the Environment Agency are currently managing two linked research projects, which aim to provide a better understanding of what the projections will mean for future river flows and how the information can be best used in decision making.

The Environment Agency recently published its Long Term Investment Strategy. This suggested flood and coastal risk management expenditure needs to increase to £1,040 million a year by 2035, plus inflation, in order to counter expected climate change and avoid more properties being placed at significant risk. This is compared to the £570 million to be spent on asset management and improvement in 2010-11. The climate scenarios used in the investment strategy are consistent with the latest climate projections data.

We expect the UKCP09 projections to be used in future assessments of flood and coastal risks, and in risk management plans, strategies and projects, such as the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 380W, on fluoride: drinking water, what assessment the Drinking Water Inspectorate made of the adequacy of the remedial action taken by Three Valleys Water following the addition of excessive levels of fluoride to the water supply in 2000. [282193]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Drinking Water Inspectorate has provided the following information about the assessment of the single sample result on 6 July 2000.

The natural level of fluoride in the source water is between 0.07 and 0.25 mg/l (the European maximum level permitted is 1.5 mg/l). There is no additional fluoride put into the water at the treatment works. The single adverse result recorded on 6 July probably arose as a consequence of an error in the sampling/analytical process. However this could not be proven conclusively. All samples in the nine years since 6 July 2000 have given satisfactory results.

Pesticides

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects on agricultural production of the use of *(a)* Aminopyralid and *(b)* manure containing Aminopyralid; what recent representations he has received on such use; whether he plans to relicense Aminopyralid; and if he will make a statement. [283464]

Dan Norris: Aminopyralid is known to be a useful herbicide for control of broadleaved weeds in high production grassland.

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) considered applications for approval of two aminopyralid products for use on grassland at their 337th and 338th meetings on 12 May and 30 June 2009.

The minutes of the 337th meeting can be found on the ACP website and the minutes of the 338th meeting will be posted there in due course:

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/acp_home.asp

DEFRA has received a number of representations from individuals and allotment organisations concerned about the possibility of manure containing aminopyralid becoming available to gardeners. The applications for approval of these new products include tighter restrictions than previous approvals and the company concerned has plans for a stewardship programme to ensure that the risk of aminopyralid containing manure entering the supply chain is minimised.

Ministers will consider whether the issues raised have been adequately addressed and approvals can be granted when advice is received from the ACP.

Pesticides: Public Footpaths

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency has issued to local authorities on the spraying of pesticides on public footways and pathways. [284138]

Dan Norris: "Blanket spraying" is a colloquial term commonly used to describe the spraying of pesticides over large areas, usually in amenity situations such as on pavements or kerbsides and on parkland. The code of practice for using plant protection products provides guidance on the use of pesticides in all situations, including how to comply with the law and protect people and the environment when using pesticides. This code was sent to all local authorities when it was issued in 2006, and has been drawn to the attention of attendees at a variety of meetings including weed control conference at which local authorities have been present.

In line with the UK Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides, the Government are seeking to minimise the amount of "blanket spraying" (and any other unnecessary application of pesticides). This will be done as part of a proportionate and integrated package of measures to reduce further the risks arising from amenity use of pesticides, particularly in implementing the forthcoming EU directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

The Environment Agency has worked with Government and others on the development of the UK Strategy and supports the measures within it for reducing the impact of amenity pesticides on the environment.

Pets: EU Law

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to request an extension of the UK derogation from EU legislation for pet travel. [283640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission recently announced a proposal to extend the UK derogation on pet travel rules until 31 December 2011. This means that, subject to the agreement of the Council and European Parliament, the UK's current pet travel rules will remain in place until then.

In the meantime, DEFRA will continue to have discussions with the Commission and others on the movement of pets into the UK and around the wider European Community to ensure that we have the right long-term disease controls.

Recycling: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste has been recycled by each local authority area in the Ceremonial County of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [283297]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Sheep: Tagging

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take at EU level following the rejection of the Government's proposed amendment to Regulation 21/2004 on electronic identification of sheep at the EU Agriculture Council meeting of 22 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [283149]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are continuing to work closely with the Commission and have received positive feedback from them on a further proposal to reduce the EID implementation burden on industry, which would provide for individual recording to be carried out at critical control points i.e. markets and abattoirs on behalf of the keeper. If secured, this could reduce industry implementation costs by a further 35 to 40 per cent.

Water Supply

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of water lost through leaks from water pipes managed by *(a)* Severn Trent Water and *(b)* South Staffordshire Water in each of the last five years; what steps he is taking to reduce the volume of water lost through leaks from water pipes; and if he will make a statement. [283944]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies report annual leakage figures to Ofwat as part of their annual regulatory returns. Ofwat publishes leakage performance annually in its Service and Delivery report. Ofwat sets the water companies targets to reduce their leakage to the economic level, the level of leakage at which it would cost more to make further reductions than to produce water from another source. Since 1997, total leakage has been reduced by 27 per cent. in England and Wales. All water companies met their leakage targets during 2007-08.

Leakage performance for Severn Trent Water and South Staffordshire Water for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 was as follows:

	Performance (Megalitres/day)				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Severn Trent	512	502	540	523	490
South Staffordshire	71	74	73	73	72

Water: Meters

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed by water supply companies in homes in West Bromwich East constituency in each of the last three years. [283946]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, does not hold data on how many meters are installed in individual constituencies.

The following table are the figures for how many water meters Severn Trent Water and South Staffordshire Water installed, in each of the last three years. Severn Trent and South Staffordshire Water supply the West Bromwich East constituency.

Number of meters installed—households

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Severn Trent	38,994	33,215	44,331
South Staffordshire	6,176	4,344	7,508

TRANSPORT

A1: A421

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the improvements to the Black Cat roundabout at the A1/A421 junction at Eaton Socon cost; and for how long the improvement works affected traffic on the A1. [284220]

Chris Mole: Improvements to the Black Cat Roundabout at the A1/A421 Junction at Eaton Socon were carried out as part of the A421 Great Barford Bypass project and as such were not costed separately.

Traffic management and speed restrictions were instigated at the Black Cat Roundabout in June 2005 while work took place to enlarge the roundabout. The work took approximately 14 months to complete.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the costs arising from delays to traffic on the northbound carriageway of the A1 south of the Black Cat roundabout in each month in the five years before the roundabout was enlarged; and what estimate he has made of such costs in each month since completion of the improvements. [284221]

Chris Mole: Improvements to the Blackcat Roundabout were made as part of the A421 Great Barford Bypass scheme. The work to enlarge the roundabout started in June 2005 and lasted approximately 14 months.

The traffic information requested is not available for the full five years prior to June 2005. However, information is available from September 2002 onwards. The following table provides the information from that date to the present:

Black Cat northbound approach vehicle hours delay (VHD)

Road Link = A1 between A603 and A421

	Month	*Total vehicle hour delay (VHD)*	*Cost (£)*
2002	September	11,412	128,727.36
	October	8,426	95,045.28
	November	7,730	87,194.40
	December	6,200	69,936.00
2003	January	6,623	74,707.44
	February	6,334	71,447.52
	March	7,278	82,095.84
	April	8,244	92,992.32
	May	7,498	84,577.44
	June	7,563	85,310.64
	July	8,505	95,936.40
	August	6,106	68,875.68
	September	8,381	94,537.68
	October	8,774	98,970.72
	November	7,423	83,731.44
	December	7,271	82,016.88
2004	January	6,852	77,290.56
	February	6,170	69,597.60
	March	7,158	80,742.24
	April	6,027	67,984.56
	May	8,311	93,748.08
	June	7,450	84,036.00
	July	8,147	91,898.16
	August	6,969	78,610.32
	September	6,760	76,252.80
	October	9,355	105,524.40
	November	10,541	118,902.48
	December	8,011	90,364.08
2005	January	5,666	63,912.48
	February	5,457	61,554.96
	March	8,369	94,402.32
	April	6,942	78,305.76
	May	8,248	93,037.44
	June	9,200	103,776.00
	July	11,354	128,073.12
	August	10,738	121,124.64
	September	19,135	215,842.80
	October	22,301	251,555.28
	November	16,394	184,924.32
	December	16,474	185,826.72
2006	January	13,220	149,121.60
	February	30,306	341,851.68
	March	22,441	253,134.48
	April	16,168	182,375.04
	May	20,120	226,953.60
	June	23,080	260,342.40
	July	16,189	182,611.92
	August	7,058	79,614.24
	September	9,283	104,712.24
	October	7,503	84,633.84
	November	9,781	110,329.68
	December	7,763	87,566.64
2007	January	6,396	72,146.88
	February	7,490	84,487.20
	March	8,493	95,801.04
	April	9,233	104,148.24
	May	9,841	111,006.48
	June	9,452	106,618.56
	July	11,768	132,743.04
	August	11,302	127,486.56
	September	11,312	127,599.36
	October	12,969	146,290.32
	November	10,815	121,993.20
	December	7,788	87,848.64
2008	January	5,067	57,155.76
	February	8,541	96,342.48
	March	7,554	85,209.12

Black Cat northbound approach vehicle hours delay (VHD)

Road Link = A1 between A603 and A421

	Month	*Total vehicle hour delay (VHD)*	*Cost (£)*
	April	8,941	100,854.48
	May	11,058	124,734.24
	June	7,628	86,043.84
	July	9,412	106,167.36
	August	10,789	121,699.92
	September	7,351	82,919.28
	October	9,243	104,261.04
	November	8,193	92,417.04
	December	6,972	78,644.16
2009	January	5,800	65,424.00
	February	7,116	80,268.48
	March	7,226	81,509.28
	April	7,724	87,126.72
	May	7,111	80,212.08

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners resident in Milton Keynes received concessionary bus passes in the latest period for which figures are available. [283684]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, Milton Keynes local authority had issued approximately 25,000 of the new smartcard concessionary passes. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport of administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281011]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's estimates for carbon emissions arising from road transport amount to 11,116.5 tonnes of CO_2 in 2006-07, and to 9,784.4 tonnes in 2007-08. This equates to 0.604 tonnes per full-time equivalent member of staff in 2006-07, and 0.514 tonnes in 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full-time equivalent civil servants working in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies outside London earn a consolidated salary of less than (i) £15,000, (ii) £16,000, (iii) £18,000, (iv) £20,000 and (v) £25,000, excluding bonuses. [283687]

Chris Mole: The number of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport earning less than £25,000 excluding bonuses is shown in the following table:

	Number
£15,000	490
£16,000	1,697
£18,000	4,210
£20,000	2,027
£25,000	3,586

The number of full-time equivalent civil servants working in the Department for Transport agencies earning less than £25,000 excluding bonuses is shown in the following table:

	Number
£15,000	490
£16,000	1,697
£18,000	4,205
£20,000	2,010
£25,000	3,522

These salaries are based on 1 June 2009.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of *(a)* white and *(b)* non-white staff of his Department of each (i) grade and (ii) pay band have received the highest performance marking in each reporting year since the inception of Department for Transport (central). [283688]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (central Department) recorded the following proportion of staff who received the highest marking in their annual appraisal in each year since formation:

percentage

	Ethnic minority	*White*
2007-08	20.2	30.0
2006-07	19.9	30.0
2005-06	10.0	27.0
2004-05	20.0	27.0
2003-04	14.4	29.6
2002-03	14.3	26.6

Pay band breakdown for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is available via our external website. Previous years pay band breakdown is available only at disproportionate cost.

DVLA: Buildings

Mrs. James: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) offices excluding DVLA Swansea have lease agreements with a break clause that will allow the property to be vacated in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [284057]

Paul Clark: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Local Offices with a break clause, allowing the property to be vacated in the time requested each year are, 2009 none; 2010 Lincoln and Sheffield local offices and 2011 Chelmsford local office.

Mrs. James: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) offices excluding DVLA Swansea have a lease which will expire in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [284058]

Paul Clark: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local offices where the lease will expire in the relevant years are listed as follows:

2009

Bangor
Chester
Inverness
Leeds
Stockton
Truro
Wimbledon

2010

Norwich
Portsmouth

2011

Aberdeen
Peterborough
Sidcup

DVLA: Manpower

Mrs. James: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff are employed at each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) office, excluding DVLA Swansea. [284059]

Paul Clark: The number of staff employed at each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Local Office (LO) and Continuous Registration Enforcement Centre (CREC) excluding Swansea are as follows:

	Number
Aberdeen LO	11
Bangor LO	16
Beverley LO	16
Birmingham LO	64
Boreham Wood LO	44
Bournemouth LO and CREC	69
Brighton LO	25
Bristol LO	31
Cardiff LO	41
Carlisle LO	12
Chelmsford LO	60
Chester LO	25
Dundee LO	12
Edinburgh LO	26
Exeter LO	48
Glasgow LO and CREC	78
Inverness LO	7
Ipswich LO	22
Leeds LO	61
Lincoln LO	19
Maidstone LO	38
Manchester LO	56
Newcastle LO	52
Northampton LO and CREC	63
Norwich LO	15
Nottingham LO	54
Oxford LO	14
Peterborough LO	26
Portsmouth LO	26
Preston LO	68
Reading LO	26
Sheffield LO	29
Shrewsbury LO	21
Sidcup LO	93
Stockton LO	23
Truro LO	15
Wimbledon LO	46
Worcester LO	32
Total	1,384

First Group: National Express

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings he has held with First Group regarding its proposed takeover of National Express; and if he will make a statement. [283702]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 2 June 2009]:* There have been no meetings between Department for Transport Ministers and First Group regarding a proposed takeover of National Express, however, First Group indicated to the Secretary of State that they had made preliminary approach to National Express with a view to entering into discussion about a possible merger.

M18

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans the Highways Agency has to resurface the M18 south of junction 6. [284021]

Chris Mole: There are currently no plans to resurface the M18 south of junction 6. The road surface of the M18 at the specified location is in good condition.

Motorways: Subsidence

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the slow lanes of the M1 and the M18 were last inspected for subsidence in the road surface caused by heavy goods vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [284020]

Chris Mole: Lane 1 of the M1 northbound and southbound carriageways in South Yorkshire and the Humber region were surveyed on the following dates:

M1 between junction 30-35a northbound on 18 November 2008;

M1 between junction 35a-42 northbound on 19 November 2008;

M1 between junctions 30-42 southbound on 20 November 2008.

Lane 1 of the whole length of the M18 northbound and southbound carriageways were last surveyed on 25 November 2008.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department is providing to enable the completion of Guide to Rail Investment Projects 3 work in respect of the proposals to electrify the Gospel Oak to Barking line; and when he expects this stage of the process to be completed. [284159]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* No funding is being provided by the Department for Transport towards the development of any Guide to Railway Investment Projects Stage 3 work for the Gospel Oak to Barking line electrification. The funding of the development work and the date for its completion are both matters for Transport for London.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what agreement has been reached between his Department and Transport for London in respect of the allocation of costs for the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line. [284160]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 769W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn).

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what maximum temperature in train carriages his Department specified in franchise agreements. [283043]

Chris Mole: There is no such requirement in any franchise agreement.

Road Traffic Offences: Electric Vehicles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether his Department intends to prosecute users of personal transporters on public highways; and if he will make a statement; [R] [283507]

(2) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of personal transporters which are in use on public highways at least once a week; and if he will make a statement. [283508]

Paul Clark: Prosecution is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the number of personal transporters which are in use on public highways.

Road Traffic: Census

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on *(a)* the cost of the recent Milton Keynes council traffic census and *(b)* the number of motorists questioned over the period of the census. [283683]

Mr. Khan: The road traffic counts carried out by the Department for Transport for the National Road Traffic Estimates simply count the number of vehicles passing a defined point. They do not involve questioning motorists or interfering with the traffic flow.

The cost of the individual surveys cannot be provided as the information is commercially confidential.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the West Midlands Casualty Reduction Scheme in reducing numbers of road traffic accidents in that region. [283647]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not made a specific, recent assessment of the effectiveness of the West Midlands safety enforcement camera partnership (also known as the West Midlands Casualty Reduction Scheme), which covers the West Midlands metropolitan area.

In 2008 the West Midlands metropolitan area authorities reviewed their overall progress delivering their second local transport plan, including in respect of road safety. The Government office for the West Midlands region, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, commented on this review in a letter dated 9 January 2009. This can be viewed at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/ltp2/westmidlands/westmidlandsjoint.pdf

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road fatalities there have been in each parliamentary constituency in Greater London in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [illegible]

Paul Clark: The numbers of fatalities in each parliamentary constituency in Greater London for each year from 2004 to 2008 are shown in the following table:

Number of fatalities

Parliamentary constituency[1]	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Barking	4	5	4	3	4
Battersea	3	4	3	0	4
Beckenham	3	2	3	2	6
Bethnal Green and Bow	3	5	1	1	5
Bexleyheath and Crayford	2	2	1	4	0
Brent East	1	0	4	3	1
Brent North	3	1	3	1	0
Brent South	2	5	4	7	4

				Number of fatalities
Parliamentary constituency[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*

Parliamentary constituency[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Number of fatalities* *2008*
Brentford and Isleworth	9	10	8	5	3
Bromley and Chislehurst	3	4	6	3	5
Camberwell and Peckham	2	1	3	3	1
Carshalton and Wallington	3	2	2	1	2
Chingford and Woodford Green	2	3	1	2	4
Chipping Barnet	4	3	1	5	3
Cities of London and Westminster	10	9	10	7	18
Croydon Central	6	5	2	4	2
Croydon North	5	1	1	4	0
Croydon South	1	1	4	1	2
Dagenham	3	1	1	4	4
Dulwich and West Norwood	2	4	5	2	2
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	4	5	7	6	6
Ealing North	2	5	2	2	8
Ealing, Southall	2	2	4	7	2
East Ham	2	0	1	4	0
Edmonton	2	4	7	5	1
Eltham	4	3	7	4	4
Enfield North	3	3	10	2	4
Enfield, Southgate	3	6	4	5	1
Erith and Thamesmead	1	1	2	1	2
Feltham and Heston	5	4	5	4	0
Finchley and Golders Green	4	4	5	6	3
Greenwich and Woolwich	4	4	4	3	6
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	6	3	5	0	2
Hackney South and Shoreditch	2	1	2	2	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	6	3	4	1
Hampstead and Highgate	2	1	3	2	0
Harrow East	2	3	1	1	1
Harrow West	2	1	2	1	0
Hayes and Harlington	3	2	4	0	5
Hendon	4	4	10	3	11
Holborn and St. Pancras	2	2	5	5	4
Hornchurch	7	3	1	5	0
Hornsey and Wood Green	1	3	2	2	1
Ilford North	6	4	2	4	2
Ilford South	4	2	3	4	1
Islington North	1	3	1	5	1
Islington South and Finsbury	1	1	1	1	3
Kensington and Chelsea	4	9	3	8	4
Kingston and Surbiton	4	3	3	5	2
Lewisham, Deptford	4	1	0	1	1
Lewisham East	3	3	1	3	0
Lewisham West	0	2	1	2	2
Leyton and Wanstead	0	0	0	1	1
Mitcham and Morden	1	0	0	3	1
North Southwark and Bermondsey	5	3	2	0	7
Old Bexley and Sidcup	0	4	3	2	0
Orpington	4	3	5	2	3
Poplar and Canning Town	3	4	5	5	3
Putney	3	1	2	0	0
Regent's Park and North Kensington	3	6	4	0	4
Richmond Park	2	0	4	1	0
Romford	1	4	0	3	1
Ruislip-Northwood	5	3	0	5	5
Streatham	1	4	1	5	7
Sutton and Cheam	0	0	0	0	0
Tooting	3	0	2	2	2
Tottenham	2	4	6	2	2
Twickenham	3	2	2	1	1
Upminster	2	0	0	4	3
Uxbridge	4	3	2	4	4
Vauxhall	1	2	5	5	3
Walthamstow	0	3	0	2	1

Number of fatalities

Parliamentary constituency[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
West Ham	2	1	2	4	0
Wimbledon	1	1	5	2	3
All constituencies in Greater London	216	214	228	222	205

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary boundaries

Speed Limits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether an impact assessment has been prepared in relation to his Department's plans to encourage local authorities to set lower speed limits. [284172]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's consultation on a new road safety strategy, "A Safer Way", was published on 21 April 2009. This included proposals to reduce road casualties on residential streets and on the riskiest rural roads, by encouraging highway authorities to reduce speed limits on such roads. An impact assessment was included in the consultation document, which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/roadsafetyconsultation/

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance notes have been issued to local highways authorities on safety camera partnerships since May 1997; and which of those notes remain in effect. [284130]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport (DfT) issued the Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales in 2001 which was revised regularly until the final version was published in January 2006. This was superseded by DfT Circular 01/2007, "Guidance on the Deployment of Speed and Red-Light Cameras" issued on 31 January 2007. The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website.

Transport: Finance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding has been allocated to each local transport authority in the East of England for capital investment in each of the last 10 years. [283414]

Mr. Khan: Allocations provided to the East of England in each of the last 10 years are shown in the tables:

Integrated transport

£ million

East region	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*[1]
Bedfordshire	3.784	3.160	3.572	3.350	3.200	3.000	3.100	3.900	2.400	—
Cambridgeshire	8.474	8.560	8.662	8.200	11.814	9.300	8.050	8.100	4.500	—
Essex	12.932	12.518	13.327	13.800	14.250	13.966	13.000	13.000	5.000	—
Hertfordshire	11.512	11.626	11.422	12.600	12.350	14.170	12.950	12.500	5.000	—
Luton	2.408	3.158	2.516	3.100	3.300	4.310	4.000	4.100	1.800	—
Norfolk	11.040	11.209	11.073	9.700	13.213	11.119	10.5 50	10.000	4.000	—
Peterborough	2.154	2.049	1.867	1.900	2.187	2.196	2.000	2.000	0.900	—
Southend-on-Sea	2.428	2.550	2.562	2.800	2.520	3.373	3.000	3.000	1.650	—
Suffolk	6.838	6.816	7.578	7.350	7.745	8.250	8.150	7.500	4.000	—
Thurrock	2.492	2.345	2.391	2.150	2.060	2.450	2.100	1.400	0.650	—

[1] The Integrated Transport figure is included in the table below for this year.

Highways maintenance

£ million

East region	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*[1]
Bedfordshire	5.496	4.591	6.001	6.001	4.801	4.364	3.491	3.247	1.617	4.602
Cambridgeshire	11.654	11.752	12.782	12.782	10.226	8.791	7.437	6.967	2.817	7.806
Essex	18.006	22.428	16.682	18.088	12.626	12.620	15.001	13.925	5.170	8.942
Hertfordshire	11.151	11.263	9.175	8.596	9.262	7.939	10.586	10.083	4.467	6.858
Luton	1.012	0.891	0.948	0.889	1.185	1.020	0.862	0.819	0.587	4.344
Norfolk	19.130	21.273	19.401	19.635	19.836	18.262	18.973	19.247	5.203	7.752
Peterborough	2.361	5.625	2.209	4.579	4.227	1.834	1.843	1.765	1.082	2.562
Southend-on-Sea	1.720	1.915	1.707	1.622	3.444	1.307	1.742	1.608	0.696	1.945
Suffolk	14.707	14.929	16.032	15.274	14.485	12.316	11.808	13.467	4.472	5.554
Thurrock	1.038	0.818	2.919	4.483	3.855	1.148	1.550	1.146	0.597	1.760

[1] Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 630W, on Afghanistan: detainees, when the Governor of Bermuda was first informed that the four Muslim Uighur refugees had been detainees in Guantánamo Bay [283328]

David Miliband: The Governor was first informed by the Government of Bermuda that the four Muslim Uighurs transferred to Bermuda were former detainees in Guantanamo Bay at 0820 (local time) 11 June 2009, following their arrival in Bermuda two hours earlier.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Burma on the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. [284305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has expressed UK's deep concern over the arrest and trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, commenting that it shows the Burmese regime is intent on finding any pretext to extend her unlawful detention. He released a statement on the morning of her arrest on 14 May 2009 condemning the actions of the regime. On receiving news of her arrest, our embassy in Rangoon also immediately registered its concern with the Burmese authorities. Our ambassador contacted them again on 18 May 2009 and the following days to seek access to her trial.

Former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Bill Rammell raised the arrest and trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, the detention of over 2,100 political prisoners and the implications for a genuine transition to democracy in Burma with EU and Asian partners at the EU-Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Asia-Europe Meeting in the region at the end of May. He spoke directly to Burmese Ministers to express the UK's outrage at their actions.

Most recently, the Prime Minister issued a statement on Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday, 19 June 2009, reiterating his call for her release. Our embassy in Rangoon transmitted a message from the Government to the Burmese Ministry of Foreign Affairs early on 1 July 2009 expressing our continued concern about Aung San Suu Kyi's trial and urging the regime to co-operate with the UN General Secretary upon his visit.

Bermuda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 629-30W, on Afghanistan: detainees, what the role of the *(a)* government and *(b)* Governor of Bermuda is in respect of Bermudese foreign affairs; and if he will make a statement. [283326]

David Miliband: The Governor has responsibility for the conduct of any business of the Bermuda Government with respect to the external affairs of Bermuda in accordance with section 62 of the Bermuda Constitution. The Government of Bermuda have been delegated, subject to certain conditions, authority under a 1968 General Entrustment to negotiate and conclude agreements in certain specified areas with other countries. Other entrustments have also been issued at various times authorising specific negotiations.

Chernobyl: Children

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress has been made in discussions with his Belarusian counterpart on arrangements for visits to the UK by children who grew up near Chernobyl; [278169]

(2) for what reasons the Government has not concluded a bilateral agreement with Belarus on safeguarding the status of children connected with Chernobyl. [278170]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

On 22 May, the United Kingdom entered into a bilateral agreement with the Belarusian Government to secure the resumption of organised visits by Chernobyl-affected Belarusian children to the United Kingdom. Parliament was notified of this agreement by written ministerial statement, laid on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS, available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090611/wmstext/90611m0001.htm #09061143000079

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284399]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its network of diplomatic posts overseas use a large number of databases, of varying size and complexity. The most significant of these are managed centrally.

These databases support a wide range of activities across the organisation, from the processing of passport applications and recording consular assistance to British citizens overseas, to managing the FCO's financial and personnel administration across the whole network of FCO departments and posts overseas. Each post normally also holds local business and official contacts databases.

Many of the FCO databases may contain personal information about our staff and members of the public who have sought our assistance, but all personal information held on FCO databases is strictly protected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282892]

Chris Bryant: Efficiency savings are not used for increased pay in the 2009 pay offer to staff. Efficiency savings are either redirected back into frontline services or to enable the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to live within its comprehensive spending review settlement.

Diplomatic Missions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 25WS, on diplomatic missions, what discretion local authorities have to withdraw public services from diplomatic missions which do not pay the national non-domestic rates billed to them. [283916]

Chris Bryant: National non diplomatic rates (NNDR) for diplomatic premises is paid in full to local authorities by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The VOA then bills individual missions for the portion which covers services from which missions directly benefit. This is currently calculated as 6 per cent. of the total bill.

As diplomatic missions do not pay NNDR direct to local authorities, it would not be appropriate for local authorities to withdraw services from those diplomatic missions which have NNDR debts.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 25WS, on diplomatic missions, on what date the Zimbabwe mission last paid a bill for national non-domestic rates; and how many months of non-domestic rates arrears the sum given in the statement represents. [283917]

Chris Bryant: The Valuation Office Agency's records indicate that the Zimbabwean mission's debt has been accumulating since 2000-01. Since that time they have only paid one year's beneficial portion of national non-domestic rates, for the year 2006-07. The sum given in the written ministerial statement represents eight years' accumulated debt.

Interpal

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Quartet representative on the designation by the US administration of the charity Interpal as a terrorist organisation. [284463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not discussed Interpal with the quartet representative.

Our officials are in discussion with their US counterparts about how to facilitate legitimate charitable work while protecting against any risk of funds being misused by terrorists. These discussions have included reference to the Interpal's status in the US as a designated organisation.

Israel: Internally Displaced Persons

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the eviction of families from the Sheikh Jarrah district of East Jerusalem; what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [284949]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned by the continued eviction notices served on Palestinian families in East Jerusalem and have pressed the Israeli Government to suspend these eviction notices immediately. We have supported an EU presidency statement expressing the EU's deep concern about the issue of eviction notices to the al-Rawi and Hanoun families in East Jerusalem and calling for the al-Kurd family to be allowed to return to their home.

Additionally, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made the UK's concerns clear in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009 and it was also discussed during the EU Foreign Ministers' meeting on 15 June 2009. The UK will continue to raise this with Israeli officials both in public and in private.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of his Department [illegible] in 10 Downing Street as foreign policy advisers [illegible] the Prime Minister. [284026]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* There are currently three members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office based in 10 Downing Street working as foreign policy advisers to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Peru: Rain Forests

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the government of Peru on the protection of rainforest in that country. [284214]

Chris Bryant: We have frequent discussions with the Peruvian Government as part of our close and friendly bilateral relationship. This includes with Peru's Environment Minister on his commitment made at Poznan in December 2008 to reduce Peru's deforestation to zero by 2019. We have offered our support to the Peruvian Government as they seek to strengthen Peru's legal framework for protecting the Amazon.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plans to introduce a compensation scheme for British victims of terrorism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [282500]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for Humanitarian Assistance.

An inter-departmental working group is putting together detailed proposals on financial support for victims of terrorist attacks overseas. The group will report to Ministers shortly.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 394-97W, on Records of detention (review conclusions), what the names of each of the two individuals transferred from Iraq to Afghanistan in 2004 are; at what US detention facilities they *(a)* have been and *(b)* are being held; what steps the Government has taken to verify US assurances on the treatment of the two individuals; whether the UK has the power to demand (i) access to and (ii) the return of the two individuals; on what date officials were first made aware of (A) the intention to transfer the two individuals and (B) the transfer itself; what international law applies to people held on behalf of other coalition forces; and if he will make a statement. [283335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 30 June 2009]:* It is not the practice of this Department to release personal information, such as the names of these two individuals. The individuals were initially held at a US detention facility in Baghdad before they were transferred to US detention facilities at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. As my predecessor made clear in his statement, when this information came to light officials immediately engaged with their US counterparts and were assured that the individuals are held in a humane, safe and secure environment that meets international standards that are consistent with applicable cultural and religious norms. I am satisfied that these assurances are reliable; although there is no formal legal power for the UK to demand access to the individuals, close relationships with the US satisfy me that this is not required. After 31 December 2008 the UK has no power of detention in Iraq so demanding the return of these two individuals would not be practical nor possible.

The review examined the available historical records, which suggest that British officials became aware of an intention to transfer in March 2004, although this was some days after the initial capture had occurred. British officials had learned by mid-June 2004 that the individuals had been transferred to Afghanistan.

What particular international law provisions apply will depend on the operational theatre and the circumstances; I am not in a position to make general statements on what legal provisions may apply as each operational theatre is different.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan triggered by *(a)* weight, *(b)* command wire and *(c)* remote detonation by electronic signal in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [283548]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many locally employed translators are working for the armed forces in each region of Afghanistan. [283553]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces employ nine locally employed translators in Afghanistan. Of these six are in Kabul and three in Helmand Province.

The armed forces also employ 397 locally employed interpreters. Of these six are based in Kandahar, 32 in Kabul and 359 in Helmand Province.

Air Force: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training flights in each type of aircraft have been undertaken by RAF pilots in each training area in each of the last 10 years. [283661]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Available information related to low flying training is published annually in the report, "The Pattern of Military Low Flying across the United Kingdom". The report relating to the training year 2008-09 will be published, and placed in the Library of the House, before the summer recess.

Armed Forces: Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum number is of members of the armed forces who may be deployed to serve in Afghanistan. [284242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The endorsed force level for UK military operations in Afghanistan is 8,300.

The Prime Minister announced on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869, the deployment of additional troops to Afghanistan to provide extra security during the Afghan election period. This has temporarily increased troop numbers in Afghanistan to 9,000.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met Scottish Executive Health Ministers to discuss the care of soldiers and veterans in each year since 1999; [282935]

(2) on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met Scottish Executive Health Ministers to discuss the sharing of best practice between the Defence Medical Services and NHS Scotland in the last two years; and what other mechanisms are in place to ensure that best practice between those services is shared. [283201]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of topics discussed during meetings between Ministers are not held centrally. Both my predecessor and the Under-Secretary of State have met with Shona Robison, on 14 May 2009 and 23 April 2009 respectively to discuss a variety of issues.

The Scottish Executive is represented at official level on the MOD/UK Health Departments Partnership Board, which meets three times a year and whose remit includes exploring ways of sharing best practice between the Defence Medical Services (DMS) and the NHS in England and the devolved regions, including Scotland. At a working level, some individual members of the DMS also work in Scottish NHS medical facilities, particularly in Edinburgh, enabling clinical best practice to be shared on a day-to-day basis.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of veterans resident in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland with a health condition related to their service. [283008]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 31 March 2009, a total of 256,520 individuals in the United Kingdom were in receipt of a pension awarded under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) for a health condition related to their service. In addition, 1,145 veterans were in receipt of a compensation award under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for a health condition related to their service and 80 individuals were in receipt under both schemes. The following table shows a breakdown by country and the scheme under which they have been awarded.

Country	*Number*
Individuals awarded under WPS[1 2 3]	
Total	256,520
England	205,980
Scotland	31,700
Wales	17,315
Northern Ireland	1,085
Great Britain[2]	440
Veterans awarded under AFCS[1 4]	
Total	1,145
England	1,000
Scotland	60
Wales	55
Northern Ireland	30
Individuals awarded under both schemes[1 3 4]	
Total	80
England	70
Scotland	—
Wales	—
Northern Ireland	0

'—' Represents a value of fewer than 5.

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. Due to rounding, the total does not equal the sum of the parts.

[2] The 'Great Britain' category refers to individuals that have been identified as residing within Great Britain, but due to invalid address data, cannot be allocated to a particular country.

[3] Under the WPS, awards have only been included from individuals who have left the armed forces. Some individuals may have re-joined the armed forces since their awarded claim and therefore would not be classed as veterans, but have been included in the figures provided.

[4] Under the AFCS, awards have been included for those who claimed post-service and those who claimed while in service and subsequently left the armed forces.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in the provision of accommodation for families of military patients being treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine's clinical facilities at Selly Oak; and on what date he expects such accommodation to become available. [283343]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Current accommodation, most of which has been in place for some time, includes the following:

Six rooms in one wing of Selly Oak hospital (five accommodation rooms plus a quiet room) are allocated for relatives of military personnel listed as very seriously ill or seriously ill. Depending on availability, families of non-listed patients may also stay in these rooms.

Further accommodation for families available on the Selly Oak site itself includes three flats, offering in total three single, three double and three twin-bed rooms.

The League of Friends has generously provided a further flat, offering two twin bed and one double room.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help has also generously provided a "home from home" (Norton House) close to Selly Oak hospital, offering seven bedrooms for the use of families of military patients. It was opened earlier this year.

SSAFA has also funded improvements to accommodation available on the Selly Oak site.

In our planning for the military ward to be established at the new Queen Elizabeth hospital (which will replace Selly Oak) from 2010, we are ensuring that family accommodation will continue to be provided on a similar scale.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average period of time taken to make repairs to a forces accommodation property after a call-out was in the latest period for which figures are available. [275021]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Liam Fox:

In my answer of 13 May 2009 (Official Report, column 763W) I undertook to write to you with details of the longest and average time taken to make repairs to forces accommodation properties.

The maintenance and repair of Service accommodation worldwide is carried out under a number of different arrangements. In the UK, repairs to the majority of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties are carried out under the Housing Prime Contract (HPC), in England and Wales, the Regional Prime Contract (RPC) in Scotland and other arrangements in Northern Ireland. The longest and average time to carry out repairs in each period for which figures are available are provided in the following table.

			Repairs (in days)		
			Emergency	*Urgent*	*Routine*
England and Wales HPC	April 2008 to March 2009	Longest	18	36	66
		Average	0.5	5.2	11.2

			Repairs (in days)		
			Emergency	*Urgent*	*Routine*
Scotland RPC	October 2003 to May 2009	Longest	1	9.1	22.9
		Average	0.5	5.2	20.4
Northern Ireland	2004 to May 2009	Longest	14	29	44
		Average	0.8	3.9	11

From the way the data is held, it is not possible to identify the specific reasons why the longest repairs took the time they did to complete. In general, repairs can take longer based on a number of factors, including the complexity of the work, whether accommodation is occupied or the availability of parts and materials that are required to finalise repairs. In many cases the fault is temporarily repaired at the first visit, but additional work is required to complete it.

Like for like figures are not available for Single Living Accommodation or overseas SFA.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the new armed forces accommodation announced in Budget 2009 to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [283311]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Budget 2009 announced that £50 million of expenditure is to be brought forward from 2010-11 and 2011-12 to be spent on upgrading, modernising and improving existing service accommodation. This is in addition to expenditure already provisioned for this year.

The advance of expenditure will be used to assist around 19 improvement projects and locations across Great Britain, some already in progress. It is not possible to say when the work will be completed at this stage. This expenditure is part of the £3 billion budget which the Government plan to spend on improving service accommodation over the next 10 years.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each grading committee report on armed forces accommodation. [283657]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD does not produce a grading committee report on armed forces accommodation. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Armed Forces Pay Review Board, who determine pay, allowances and accommodation charges, publish an annual report which is routinely placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are receiving pensions under the provisions of *(a)* the Gurkha Pension Scheme, *(b)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 and *(c)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975; and if he will make a statement. [282127]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At 31 March 2009 the number of members and dependants receiving pensions under the Gurkha Pension Scheme was 25,139, the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 was 1,062 and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 was 368,547.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits were made by schools presentation teams in each service to *(a)* state and *(b)* private schools in each year since 2005. [280819]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested on service schools presentation teams is provided in the following tables:

Royal Navy

	Total	*State*	*Private*
2005-06	620	n/a	n/a
2006-07	643	n/a	n/a
2007-08	478	408	70
2008-09	511	441	70

Note:

The table does not include data for Wales and the West of England because this information could be provided within the timescale only at disproportionate cost.

Army

	Total	*State*	*Private*
2005-06	307	288	19
2006-07	336	322	14
2007-08	292	270	22
2008-09	190	177	13

RAF

	Total[1]
2005-06	101
2006-07	96
2007-08	99
2008-09	[2]293

[1] The RAF do not record whether the school they visit is state or private.

[2] The Inspectorate of Recruiting Youth Outreach Teams (YOT) was formed in August 2008, which enabled an increase in the number visits from that date.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of army recruits passed through phase *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 training without taking the military swim test in the most recent period for which figures are available. [284520]

Bill Rammell: There is no requirement for entrants to the British Army to be able to swim but swimming training is compulsory for all regular army personnel. All British Army recruits are required to take the military swimming test during phase 1 or phase 2 training.

During financial year 2008-09, approximately 2,500 personnel, or 20 per cent. of those completing phase 2 training and entering the Field Army, did not pass the military swimming test.

Weak and non-swimmers have their personnel records annotated accordingly to identify when further swimming training is appropriate, and to ensure proper risk assessments can made during further training.

Christmas Island

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the merits of *(a)* commissioning a commemorative Christmas Island medal and *(b)* awarding the general service medal to those who served at Christmas Island; and if he will make a statement. [283835]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since the end of World War II, the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (known as the HD Committee) has maintained a policy that it will not consider the belated institution of awards and medals for service given many years earlier. The reason for this policy is that the present HD Committee cannot put itself in the place of the Committee which made the original decision and which would have been able to take account of the views of the Government and of other interested parties at the time of the decision. The HD Committee has made it clear on a number of occasions in response to requests for the institution of belated awards, that it will not reconsider this policy.

It has never been the Government's policy to consider service of a particular specialist nature such as the British nuclear test programme as the sole justification for the institution of a medal. It would be divisive to offer service personnel a medal simply for being involved in this project, when those who have undertaken other specialist duties would be excluded from receiving any award. This does not imply that their contribution to the defence of the country has not been appreciated.

Defence: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of the defence budget was spent in Scotland in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [281650]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1068-69W.

Department: Water

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280942]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It will take more time to collate and verify the information required to answer the question. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to James Paice:

In my answer of 22 June 2009 (Official Report, column 623-624W) I undertook to write to you with the requested details of the Department's office water consumption.

Water consumption data for the office estate is not separately identifiable from that for the rest of the Defence estate.

For the estate in Great Britain (GB), covered by Project Aquatrine, the total consumption and consumption per GB full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff in 2005-06 and 2006-07 was estimated to be as follows:

Financial year	*Total consumption (m3)*	*Consumption per FTE member of staff (m3)*
2005-06	23,763,852	86
2006-07	23,340,314	84

This information is the best that can be provided without disproportionate cost. Like for like data is not available for Northern Ireland or the overseas estate.

Consumption per FTE member of staff has been estimated using the personnel numbers published in the UK Defence Statistics 2007, available to view on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS2007/c2/table203.html

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278748]

Mr. Hutton: In the 12 months to 31 May 2009, eight individuals (including four contractor's staff acting on MOD's behalf) have been disciplined for breaches of data protection requirements. A number of other cases remain subject to investigation. Figures for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

MOD has issued internal guidance to remind staff that if they are found to have been responsible for a serious breach of data security procedures, dependent upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original target date for the completion of the second increment of the Defence Information Infrastructure programme was; when the original target date was changed; and what his latest estimate is for the completion of the second increment of the programme. [283541]

Mr. Quentin Davies: When the contract for the DII Programme was amended in December 2006 to include Increment 2A, the target date for completion of Increment 2A was end June 2009. This was further amended in October 2008 to December 2009 and the programme remains on track to meet this target date.

Diabetes

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will review the prohibition on insulin-treated diabetics joining the armed forces; [284047]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* diagnosed with diabetes while serving in the armed forces and *(b)* discharged from the armed forces as a result of being diagnosed with diabetes in each year since 2004; [284048]

(3) how many people had an application to join the armed forces turned down because they had diabetes in each year since 2004; [284049]

(4) how many people at each rank in the Army have insulin-treated diabetes. [284050]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is our policy that armed forces personnel should be recruited to be fully fit for deployment worldwide on operations. For this reason, the services do not recruit or commission personnel with existing medical conditions which require regular access to medication, such as diabetes. We currently have no plans to review this policy.

This policy is intended to protect sufferers of diabetes from military circumstances which may adversely impact upon their condition and to ensure the effectiveness of the armed forces. For example, a diabetic individual deployed on operations may experience difficulties in monitoring blood or urinary glucose levels; accessing medication; taking regular meals; maintaining a regular sleep pattern; accessing shared-care diabetic clinics; and accessing specialist services such as ophthalmology or chiropody. Such circumstances would adversely impact upon their diabetic control, thus increasing their risk of micro—and macro-vascular complications. Furthermore, an uncontrolled diabetic may constitute a risk not only to themselves, but also to others in a military or operational context.

Potential recruits are given details during the recruitment process of those medical conditions that make an individual unsuitable for entry into the services, of which diabetes is one. No centralised record is kept of the specific reasons why individuals are turned down on recruitment.

The single services manage individuals who develop diabetes during their service careers according to their specific operational requirements and each case will be considered on an individual basis. The total number and rank of individuals who were diagnosed with diabetes while serving in the armed forces and are currently still serving is not held centrally, and could be obtained only by examining the medical records of all personnel, which would incur disproportionate cost. While we will make every effort to retain in-service individuals who subsequently develop diabetes (provided that there are worthwhile military roles for them to fulfil), this will normally mean that they will have to be re-graded and will not be able to deploy on operations. This also applies to other disabilities which might arise while an individual is in service but the forces do not recruit individuals where they would only be able to serve from the outset in a medically restricted capacity.

The following table presents the numbers of service personnel medically discharged each year between 2004 and 2008 with diabetes as the principal cause leading to discharge. Figures have been compiled using the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems version 10 (ICD 10). Small totals of individuals (fewer than 5) are not shown, in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines, in order to protect individual identities. Such numbers are represented as *.

		Year of medical discharge				
	All	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Navy[1]	27	7	*	6	7	*
Army	17	6	*	5	*	*
RAF	8	*	*	*	*	*

[1] Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

European Fighter Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many squadrons of the Tranche 3 Eurofighter are due to be deployed in the UK armed forces. [283666]

Bill Rammell: On current plans, once the RAF's Typhoon fleet is at full strength it will consist of seven squadrons; five front line squadrons supported by an Operational Evaluation Unit and an Operational Conversion Unit. The distribution of Tranche 3 aircraft across these squadrons has yet to be decided.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any reductions in the UK's planned expenditure on the Tranche 3 Eurofighter procurement have taken place as a result of agreements to sell the aircraft to other countries. [283667]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Typhoon Tranche 3 is currently the subject of negotiations with our partner nations and industry.

Foxes

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of controlling foxes on his Department's land has been in each year since 1997. [284010]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Control of foxes on the defence estate is carried out as part of overall vermin control measures and is not recorded separately. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gifts and Endowments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military bases in Northern Ireland formerly owned by his Department have been gifted to the Northern Ireland Executive in each year since 1998; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such properties; and what plans there are for further such gifts. [284115]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2003 four military sites were transferred to the Northern Ireland Executive (NIE) free of charge at Malone, Magherafelt, Long Kesh (The Maze) and Ebrington, valued at £4.8 million, £1.3 million, £0.3 million and £13 million respectively. Since then the NIE has bought other sites from the Ministry of Defence, paying market value. The MOD and Northern Ireland Executive are working together on plans for a number of MOD sites scheduled for disposal.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK troops required medical evacuation as a result of injuries caused by improvised explosive devices in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009 to date. [283550]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence holds statistics on the number of casualties suffered by UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, including on the number of casualties evacuated by air from Iraq and Afghanistan on medical grounds. These are published on the Ministry of Defence website, two weeks in arrears, at the following addresses:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsInIraq/OpTelicCasualtyAndFatalityTables.htm

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsInAfghanistan/OpHerrickCasualtyAndFatalityTables.htm

I am withholding information regarding the number of personnel requiring medical evacuation as a result of injuries caused by improvised explosive devices, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Aircraft: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department provides to UK *(a)* financial and *(b)* other manufacturers bidding for fighter jet contracts; and if he will make a statement. [283592]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Government support to the export efforts of the UK defence industry, including the aerospace sector, is led by UKTI. This Department works closely to support their Defence and Security Organisation on these matters, for example, where Defence Ministers raise such issues with their counterparts or through the provision of equipment for demonstration.

Military Bases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what main amenities are available for *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* their families on each military base in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas. [283556]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of military bases in the UK and overseas provide service personnel and their families with amenities such as banks, post offices, medical centres, welfare offices and facilities including play areas, sports facilities, nurseries, information and support centres and retail outlets.

More detailed information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many wardens are employed on each military base; and how many *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* members of families of service personnel are resident on each base. [283557]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Estate wardens are no longer employed on the defence estate. The other information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department made of its potential liabilities arising from compensation claims from those with pleural plaques in advance of the House of Lords judgment on pleural plaques compensation of October 2007. [284309]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's potential liabilities arising from compensation claims from those diagnosed with pleural plaques in advance of the House of Lords judgment in October 2007 was approximately £4.3 million per annum, excluding legal costs, up to 2015, at which time the number of reported cases are expected to peak and then tail off by 2030. Total liabilities have been estimated to be approximately £50 million excluding legal costs.

White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether civilians and non-combatants have been injured during operations by British military personnel using white phosphorus in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* elsewhere in the last 10 years; what his policy is on the use of white phosphorus munitions by British forces; and if he will make a statement. [283299]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: White phosphorus munitions are only used by UK forces to protect troops on operations by producing a smoke screen to provide cover in accordance with the Third Protocol of the UN Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons, ratified by the UK in 1995, when it became illegal to use white phosphorus as a primary incendiary weapon under UK law. Training of UK forces in the use of white phosphorus emphasises that it should only be used for its intended purpose; as an obscurant and not as an anti-personnel weapon.

The Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan, Iraq or on other operations. Every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties in all theatres, and any that are the result of action by UK armed forces are always a matter of profound regret.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Electronic Communications

14. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with internet service providers on maintaining records of electronic communications; and if he will make a statement. [283797]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has regular discussions with a wide range of communications service providers. These discussions include the implementation of the EU Data Retention Directive, and potential future policies set out in the recent consultation document, "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment".

Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking Unit

17. **Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1504, what progress his Department has made towards increasing the budget for the Metropolitan police's human trafficking unit. [283801]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Additional funding of £435,000 already has been given to the Metropolitan Police to support the costs of their human trafficking team for the current financial year.

Stop and Search

19. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to police forces on the use of stop and search techniques in detecting crime. [283803]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance entitled "Practice Advice on Stop and Search" was produced in 2006 by the Central Police Training and Development Authority for the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The practice advice helps officers to carry out their duties in a practical manner and provide a consistent level of service to the public.

Prostitution

21. **Dr. Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department has proposed the creation of a new offence of paying for the sexual services of a prostitute controlled for gain. [283805]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The new offence will shift the focus of enforcement activity away from those who are working as prostitutes and on to those who have sex with prostitutes who are forced or coerced.

National DNA Database

24. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many serious crime cases ending in conviction DNA evidence retained on the national DNA database was presented in court in the last 12 months. [283808]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are available on the number of detections with DNA, but not the number of convictions. In 2007-08, 83 serious violent crimes and 184 rapes were detected in which a DNA match was available. It is not possible to say whether the DNA match was the key factor in solving the crime.

Violence against Women and Girls

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made in its consultation on "Together We Can End The Violence Against Women And Girls"; and when he expects the resultant strategy to be published. [283793]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The consultation closed at the end of May and we have received more than 8,000 responses.

My Department is analysing the responses to inform development of a strategy which will be launched by the end of the year.

Operation Pathway

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to review progress on Operation Pathway since the resignation of Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick. [283802]

Mr. Hanson: It is a long-held practice of successive Governments not to comment on ongoing police investigations.

Kingsnorth Climate Camp: Policing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the policing of Kingsnorth climate camp in August 2008. [283807]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has received a number of items of parliamentary and public correspondence, and a number of media enquiries, relating to the policing tactics employed at Kingsnorth climate camp in August 2008.

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on *(a)* commercial air flights and *(b)* chartering flights for the deportation of unsuccessful asylum seekers in each month of the last four years. [280809]

Mr. Woolas: The total costs for public expense removals on scheduled flights and chartered flights in each of the last four financial years are shown in the following table. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs for removal of failed asylum seekers from the overall removal figures without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

£

	Charter flights	*Scheduled flights*[1]
2005-06	4,339,865.31	12,933,092.35
2006-07	4,149,294.35	12,895,668.31
2007-08	4,811,162.12	15,606,958.80

	Charter flights	Scheduled flights[1]
		£
2008-09	8,227,553.38	18,562,162.35

[1] The total cost of charter and scheduled flights includes administration cost plus cancellation fees.

Borders

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the future functions of the UK's border authorities; and if he will make a statement. [282655]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have already taken steps to strengthen our borders and control migration, a significant part of which is integrating immigration and customs operations at ports and airports in a way that connects effectively to local and special branch policing.

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill contains provisions which will build a robust legal framework for the UK Border Agency and ensure officers have the powers they need to do their job effectively.

Crimes of Violence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on initiatives for sharing hospitals' anonymised data about violent crime with police forces. [283799]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, in his former role as Health Secretary, drove work to ensure that A and E departments were sharing data with crime reduction partners. 58 hospitals in Tackling Knives Action Programme areas are now sharing data, including six in Hampshire. The Home Secretary is planning to meet the Secretary of State for Health to discuss the acceleration of this work.

Crimes of Violence: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of burglary, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* vehicle crimes were reported in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [283735]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in the following table.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and figures for violence against the person are now provided.

Selected offences recorded by the police in the Essex police force area and Castle Point Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

Area and year	*Burglary*[1]	*Violence against the person*	*Vehicle crimes*[2]
			Number
Essex			
2003-04	16,467	26,010	22,888
2004-05	14,771	25,361	20,276
2005-06	14,856	23,880	21,724
2006-07	14,030	22,823	20,019
2007-08	14,141	23,145	16,634
Castle Point			
2003-04	663	867	1,182
2004-05	661	792	803
2005-06	601	773	956
2006-07	548	708	1,018
2007-08	608	750	740

Selected offences recorded by the police in the Essex police force area and Castle Point Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

[1] Includes burglary in a dwelling and other burglary.

[2] Includes theft of or from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Crimes of Violence: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of violent crime in the West Midlands was perpetrated against *(a)* young people, *(b)* families and *(c)* pensioners in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [283776]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Recorded crime data provided to the Home Office from each police force area cannot separately identify the individual circumstances of victims.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of violent crime in the West Midlands was perpetrated against *(a)* females and *(b)* males in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [283778]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Recorded crime data provided to the Home Office from each police force area does not separately identify offences committed against females and males.

Databases: Communication

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for a national database maintaining records of *(a)* e-mails, *(b)* Voice Over Internet Protocol telephone calls and *(c)* instant messages; and if he will make statement. [283859]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have no plans to build a national database maintaining records of e-mails, VoIP telephone calls or instant messages.

This was made clear in the public consultation "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment" which was published by the Home Secretary on 27 April 2009.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281057]

Mr. Woolas: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of information security.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270524]

Mr. Woolas: Of the 26,935 staff employed within Home Office HQ, the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, 34 members of staff were suspended as of 21 April 2009.

Information on the number of staff suspended on full pay is withheld on confidentiality grounds, as fewer than five members of staff are suspended with no pay.

The length of time staff have been suspended up to 21 April is as follows:

0-6 months—18 members of staff
6-12 months—fewer than five members of staff
1-2 years—six members of staff
2-3 years—fewer than five members of staff
3-4 years—fewer than five members of staff
4-5 years—fewer than five member of staff

The 34 members of staff were suspended pending the outcome of investigations into alleged misconduct or other serious concerns about their suitability for continued employment.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public consultations have been conducted by his Department since 27 June 2007; what the title of each was; how many responses were received to each; and what estimate has been made of the total cost incurred for each consultation. [280912]

Mr. Woolas: In line with the Government's code of practice on consultation, the Home Office publishes all its consultation documents on the websites referred to as follows. The number of responses received for individual consultations is recorded in the Government response documents. These are published on the relevant website alongside the consultations themselves. The costs incurred for each consultation are met from within existing departmental resources. It would not be possible to separate out the costs which could be attributed to a consultation from the normal day-to-day departmental business.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/
http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people awaiting deportation were held in open prisons on 1 June 2009. [282997]

Mr. Woolas: Figures published by the Ministry of Justice confirm that at March 2009 there were 204 foreign nationals held in open prisons. Information relating to the number of those who are awaiting deportation is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of foreign nationals found guilty of a criminal offence and subject to deportation orders were deported in each of the last 10 years. [282996]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide it with all the robust and accurate information available relating to foreign national criminals. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

DNA: Databases

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations of cases of *(a)* murder, *(b)* grievous bodily harm and *(c)* rape or other serious sexual assault have resulted in convictions on the basis of DNA samples previously taken from people arrested but not convicted in relation to an earlier suspected offence in each of the last 10 years; and how many such convictions were made (i) up to three, (ii) between three and six, (iii) between six and nine, (iv) between nine and 12 and (v) more than 12 years after the taking of those samples. [275083]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 May 2009]*: Information is not held centrally on the number of cases in which a DNA sample has contributed to a conviction. The National DNA Database (NDNAD), which contains profiles obtained from DNA subject samples, does not hold any information indicating either innocence or guilt. It is used as an intelligence database to assist the police in the investigation of crime and detection of potential offenders. The Police National Computer (PNC) holds information on convictions and whether a record exists on the National DNA Database. However, a manual case by case examination would be required to determine whether the DNA profile contributed to the conviction.

The European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper recognised that biometric data "pursues the legitimate purpose of the detection, and therefore, prevention of crime". The National DNA Database contributes to public protection. Between April 1998 and September 2008, there were over 390,000 crimes with DNA matches, providing the police with a lead on the possible identity of the offender. In 2007-08, 17,614 crimes were detected in which a DNA match was available. They included 83 "homicides", 184 rapes and a further 15,420 additional detections.

Drunkenness: Fines

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were fined for an offence of drunkenness in *(a)* a highway, *(b)* a public place and *(c)* licensed premises in each year since 2003. [282954]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of people fined for "Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises" in England and Wales, 2004 to 2007 is provided in table 1.

Data held on the Courts Proceedings Database cannot separately identify the exact location where the offence took place, the figures supplied refer to those found drunk in either a highway, public place or licensed premises, where such an offence was the principle offence for which the offender was sentenced, where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principle offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed.

Information showing the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for "being found drunk in a highway or other Public place" in England and Wales, 2004 to 2007 is provided in table 2. PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Offenders fined for offences under S.12 of the Licensing Act 1872[1], 2003-07

	Number
2003	1,304
2004	1,014
2005	868
2006	709
2007	664

[1] Licensing Act 1872 S.12 - Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for being "Drunk in a Highway", England and Wales, 2004-07[1, 2]

	Number
2004	2,497
2005	3,138
2006	2,712
2007	2,066

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277178]

Mr. Woolas: A Home Office Minister has not attended any meetings on the Euro since 2007 and there are no plans to do so.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications from overseas students for visa extensions have taken longer than three months to process in the last 12 months. [281391]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* During the last 12 months, 35,527 applications were made by students for an extension of leave, of which, 3,230 (9 per cent.) have taken longer than three months to decide.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from *(a)* training providers, *(b)* further education colleges and *(c)* universities on the effect of the points-based immigration system on student visas. [283015]

Mr. Woolas: Since the implementation of Tier 4 on 31 March 2009, UKBA has received many representations. These have been considered and where necessary changes made to the process. To facilitate a rapid response to issues, a priority resolution team has been established.

Forensic Science Service: Contracts

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value of each contract for overseas work held by the Forensic Science Service is; and at which sites work on such contracts is being undertaken. [283020]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) undertakes a range of advisory and consulting contracts with a number of international clients. These contracts are currently worth in the region of £2 million.

Contract 1—Work delivered at contract location (Europe). Staff to deliver required services are primarily situated in London, Birmingham (Trident Court) and Chepstow with some support from other FSS sites. The contract is due to finish in November 2009.

Contract 2—Work delivered in US and at Birmingham (Trident Court). Staff to deliver required services situated in Trident Court and London. The contract is due to finish in September 2009.

Contract 3—Delivered at Birmingham (Trident Court). Staff to deliver required services are primarily situated in Trident Court and London with some support from other FSS sites. The contract is due to finish in August 2009.

Contract 4—under negotiation—Work delivered at Birmingham (Trident Court) and in Abu Dhabi. Staff to deliver required services are primarily situated in Trident Court and London with some support from other FSS sites. Contract expected to finish in December 2009.

The FSS is unwilling to disclose the values of the individual contracts as those details are commercially sensitive.

Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of money which has been lost through Ponzi-type frauds in each of the last five years; [283748]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been victims of Ponzi-type frauds in each of the last five years. [283749]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* These figures are not available centrally, however in 2007 the OFT published its research into the impact of mass market scams which estimated that 90,000 people in the UK fall victim to high risk investment scams (including Ponzi schemes) each year at an estimated cost of £490 million per year.

G20: Greater London

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 191W, on the G20: Greater London, at which central London hotel accommodation was provided. [281834]

Alan Johnson: Accommodation was provided at the Strand Palace Hotel.

Human Trafficking

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to the prevention of crime relating to the trafficking of people from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* other countries in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [282542]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 which criminalised the trafficking of human beings, we have provided the UK Human Trafficking Centre with £5.6 million. Additionally, we fund the Serious Organised Crime Agency, which has organised immigration crime as its second highest priority, with around £400 million per annum.

Funds to these two organisations are not provided on a hypothecated basis in order to allow them the operational and financial freedom to put resources into all work, including prevention on an intelligence-led basis.

Within the existing budget, the UK Human Trafficking Centre has developed the "Blue Blindfold" brand under which future awareness raising and prevention work will take place.

Illegal Immigrants

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the apprehension of illegal immigrants in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [282652]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to the prevention of illegal immigration in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [282653]

(3) how much funding his Department has allocated to assist the co-operation between the UK Border Agency and its predecessors and police forces in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [282654]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to break down how much funding the Department has allocated across the broad headings requested, in each year since 1997, without risking inconsistency or potential double counting, except at disproportionate cost.

The available public spending figures for the UK Border Agency and its predecessors for each year from 1997 onwards have been set out in the following table for convenience. The sources of this information are the Home Office annual reports cited as follows. These are available in the Library of the House.

	£000
1997-98	215,000
1998-99	362,618
1999-2000	818,086
2000-01	1,336,399
2001-02	1,621,571
2002-03	1,857,252
2003-04	1,891,279
2004-05	1,614,232
2005-06	1,528,230
2006-07	1,463,464
2007-08	1,439,229
2008-09 (estimated outturn)	1,418,090

Note:
The 1997-98 figure is rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Immigration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of stateless people who have arrived in the UK from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* the Middle East, *(d)* North and South America and *(e)* Asia. [271505]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The table contains details of the number of recorded admissions and grants of entry made at the UK Border to stateless nationals from 2004 to 2007. This is the latest period for which published information is available. Further information regarding the number of individuals granted entry in this category could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

The arrival routings of passengers entering the UK in this category are not routinely recorded. It is therefore not currently possible to provide accurate statistics on the embarkation points of stateless passengers who arrive in the UK.

Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom recorded as stateless nationals by purpose of journey[1], 2004-07—United Kingdom

Number of journeys

	Total	*Visitors*	*Passengers returning after a temporary absence abroad*	*Passengers in transit*	*Others given leave to enter*
2004	78,455	18,330	54,070	2,380	3,675
2005	71,860	16,085	50,105	2,225	3,445
2006[2]	64,830	15,615	43,945	2,205	3,065
2007[1,3]	44,035	10,745	29,400	1,930	1,960

[1] Excludes asylum related grants of leave to enter.
[2] Due to some gaps in the data from ports estimates have been used.
[3] Provisional.

Notes:

1. May undercount as some administrative records on non-EEA nationals were unavailable for statistical analysis.
2. Data have been rounded to the nearest five.

This information has been taken from published Home Office Statistics which can be found at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants entered the UK under Tier 2 of the points-based system in 2008. [282999]

Mr. Woolas: Data relating to passengers entering the United Kingdom in 2008 are currently being prepared for inclusion in the Home Office statistical publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This is due to be published on 27 August 2009.

Immigration Officers: Restraint Techniques

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department provides to immigration officers on the use of control and restraint techniques. [282990]

Mr. Woolas: All immigration officers undertaking arrest activity are trained on a three week bespoke course for the UK Border Agency which is guided by the Personal Safety Manual approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

A key component of the course is conflict management. Immigration officers are taught a range of verbal and physical techniques to equip them for undertaking enforcement activity in a safe and managed way for both themselves and the people they come into contact with. Immigration officers are required to be refreshed on this component annually.

Further guidance on control and restraint can be found in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance at Chapter 45.2.10, which is available to view on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Immigration: Gurkhas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the UK Border Agency were working on cases involving Gurkhas on *(a)* 1 January 2009 and *(b)* 1 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [273741]

Mr. Woolas: Applications for settlement from former Gurkhas are considered by caseworkers in the UK and overseas (primarily in New Delhi).

On 1 January 2009 no caseworkers were actively engaged in considering applications from Gurkhas discharged before 1 July 1997. Consideration of applications was suspended while the guidance was reviewed.

While the applications from Gurkhas who retired before 1 July 1997 were on hold caseworkers in the UK and overseas continued to deal with applications from those discharged after 1 July 1997. No specific casework resource was dedicated to the consideration of these cases. They were dealt with in the normal stream of settlement applications.

New guidance was published on 24 April 2009 and decision making resumed after its publication. Teams were constituted and ready before 1 May 2009. In New Delhi three Entry Clearance Officers and one Entry Clearance Manager were ready to begin work. In the UK 27 caseworkers were dedicated to review the pending cases.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure the accuracy of information held on the Independent Safeguarding Authority database. [283526]

Mr. Hanson: Much of the information held by the Independent Safeguarding Authority is obtained from the security accredited police national computer (PNC). Information added to the PNC undergoes a series of checks to ensure accuracy The ISA will therefore accept such information as accurate and will not carry out further checks. However a range of technical and non-technical controls are employed to ensure the security and non-contamination of these records. Information obtained from other sources (such as employers) is subjected to strict accuracy and integrity checks.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long records relating to an individual who has ceased to work with children will continue to be held on the Independent Safeguarding Authority database. [283527]

Mr. Hanson: Records relating to individuals will be retained in accordance with the ISA's data retention policy. The ISA is aware of its responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and ensures that information is retained and reviewed in accordance with the legislation.

The data retention policy is being developed and will be discussed with the Information Commissioner. It will be finalised in line with the ISA assuming its full statutory responsibilities in July 2010.

This policy will set the specific timelines for ISA data retention which will depend upon the nature of the record and the purpose for which it is being retained.

International Organization for Migration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services the International Organization for Migration is contracted to provide to his Department. [278547]

Mr. Woolas: The International Organization for Migration is currently contracted to provide services to the Home Office on the following programmes:

Voluntary Assisted Return and Re-integration Programme (VARRP)

Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM)

Facilitated Removals Scheme

Gateway Protection Programme

Iraqi Local Staff Direct Entry Scheme

Global Calais Project

Inter-Governmental Conversations on Asylum (IGCs)

East African Migration Routes

Pre-Entry TB Screening Programme

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of activity of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the UK of the military defeat of that group in Sri Lanka. [282822]

Mr. Hanson: As a matter of policy we do not disclose assessments of levels of terrorist activity and violent extremism in the UK. The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) is responsible for assessing the terrorist threat to this country and UK interests overseas, and Ministers play no part in that process.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE—"Tamil Tigers") has for many years been the main terrorist organisation connected to Tamil affairs in Sri Lanka. The LTTE remains a proscribed organisation in the UK, and membership, fundraising and various other activities in support of the organisation are criminal offences. The prosecution of terrorist offences committed in support of the LTTE is the responsibility of the police and Crown Prosecution Service.

National ANPR Data Centre

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place for access to the National ANPR Data Centre; [283536]

(2) who has access to the National ANPR Data Centre; [283537]

(3) what assessment he has made of the level of accuracy of information held on the National ANPR Data Centre. [283538]

Mr. Hanson: The National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) is currently under development and test. Access to the NADC by police forces will be subject to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, setting out their responsibilities, including agreeing that access to data is solely for policing purposes, as defined within the code of practice on the management of police information under the terms of the Police Act 1996 (as amended), in support of investigation.

Currently, a small number of police forces have access to the NADC for the purpose of helping to test the facility. Further roll-out to police forces and other law enforcement agencies will be subject to an assessment of their operational requirement and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Chief constables are "data controllers in common" for ANPR data and are responsible for the accuracy of the data that is fed into the NADC. The National ACPO ANPR Standards (NAAS) sets out the criteria for ANPR data quality fed into a police force's ANPR systems and forwarded to the NADC.

Offensive Weapons

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of possession of a knife in each police force area in each year since 2007. [281675]

Mr. Hanson: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises in England and Wales, broken down by police force area for 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises, England and Wales, 2007, broken down by police force area[1, 2]

Police force area	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	163
Bedfordshire	62
Cambridgeshire	54
Cheshire	108
City of London	9
Cleveland	90
Cumbria	46
Derbyshire	99
Devon and Cornwall	138
Dorset	63
Durham	92
Essex	160
Gloucestershire	41
Greater Manchester	394
Hampshire	169
Hertfordshire	68
Humberside	147
Kent	5

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises, England and Wales, 2007, broken down by police force area[1, 2]

Police force area	*Number*
Lancashire	151
Leicestershire	118
Lincolnshire	47
Merseyside	215
Metropolitan Police	1,459
Norfolk	78
North Yorkshire	52
Northamptonshire	4
Northumbria	259
Nottinghamshire	152
South Yorkshire	138
Staffordshire	86
Suffolk	89
Surrey	42
Sussex	140
Thames Valley	139
Warwickshire	32
West Mercia	100
West Midlands	392
West Yorkshire	190
Wiltshire	48
Dyfed-Powys	35
Gwent	66
North Wales	89
South Wales	140
England and Wales	6,169

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Offensive Weapons: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged 16 years and under were arrested for carrying knives in *(a)* Ashford, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [283003]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to separate arrests for knife offences from the main offence groups.

The stop and search collections held by the Home Office cover searches and resultant arrests under various legislation, including those for offensive weapons. These data cannot separately identify searches and resultant arrests for the possession of knives.

South Yorkshire Police Service

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from ill health was in South Yorkshire Police Service employees in 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [281724]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on long-term absence for the financial year 2008-09 can be supplied after the headline figures are published on 23 July.

Figures on sickness absence for the financial year 2008-09 will be available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

after publication of the Analysis of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) data in the autumn.

Information on costs is not available.

Travel Restrictions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 321W, on travel restrictions, what definition of unacceptable behaviour his Department uses as a criteria for exclusion from the UK. [281928]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The then Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), announced to Parliament on 20 July 2005 that he would broaden his existing powers to exclude or deport those who present an indirect threat to national security, public order or the rule of law in the UK or to the UK's good relations with a third country. Consultation on implementing this decision was also announced. Following the consultation the criteria for unacceptable behaviour was published in a Press Release on 24 August 2005 entitled "Tackling Terrorism-Behaviours Unacceptable in the UK".

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 321W, on travel restrictions, how many people there are on the list of foreign nationals excluded from the UK on unacceptable behaviour grounds. [281929]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The list published by the Home Secretary on 5 May 2009 includes 22 people who were excluded from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour between October 2008 and March 2009. Since August 2005, when the policy was announced, 105 individuals have been excluded from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 25 March and 19 May 2009 sent on behalf of his constituent, Mr Ali Mohamad. [282782]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 25 June 2009.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the UK Border Agency hold dual citizenship. [282993]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not centrally record the nationality of employees upon appointment.

All candidates are subject to the same pre-appointment checks regardless of nationality. Our pre-appointment checks ensure that we only select those that pass eligibility in accordance with the Cabinet Office nationality requirements:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/Nationality-Requirements/Nationality-Requirements.aspx

Warrants

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrest warrants were outstanding in respect of *(a)* unpaid fines, *(b)* breaches of community orders and *(c)* revocation of parole licences in each probation area in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [276317]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally on the number of arrest warrants outstanding with regard to category *(a)* in your question. In relation to category *(b)*, I can provide the data in the first table which are the outstanding warrants for breaches of community orders, by area, as at 31 March 2009. These data come from an internal management system that was developed and introduced in October 2005. The data have yet to be fully quality assured and are based on the information currently available.

In relation to category *(c)*, the number of offenders who have been recalled up to and including 30 June 2008 but not returned to custody by 26 June 2009 is outlined in the second table. These data have been compiled by reconciling data from the Police National Computer (PNC), Prison Service Inmate Information System (IIS) and the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD). The reconciled data has been circulated to all police forces and probation areas to cross check against local records. In addition to the audited data we can also say that as at 26 June 2009, of those offenders recalled between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009, 342 offenders had not yet been returned to custody. These figures are provisional, un-audited and have not been approved by Local Criminal Justice Boards.

Community penalty breach warrants as at 31 March 2009

Area	*Outstanding warrants for breaches of community orders*
Avon and Somerset	105
Bedfordshire	58
Cambridgeshire	207
Cheshire	97
Cleveland	60
Cumbria	18
Derbyshire	102
Devon and Cornwall	67
Dorset	21
Durham	42
Dyfed-Powys	17
Essex	193
Gloucestershire	80
Greater London	2,483
Greater Manchester	683
Gwent	77
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	213
Hertfordshire	39
Humberside	61
Kent	141
Lancashire	85
Leicestershire	71
Lincolnshire	64
Merseyside	178
Norfolk	63
North Wales	98
North Yorkshire	35
Northamptonshire	71
Northumbria	129
Nottinghamshire	152
South Wales	301
South Yorkshire	127
Staffordshire	72
Suffolk	44
Surrey	35
Sussex	144
Thames Valley	224
Warwickshire	62
West Mercia	72
West Midlands	481
West Yorkshire	200
Wiltshire	40

LCJB area	*Number of offenders whose licences were revoked on or before 30 June 2008 and were not returned to custody by 26 June 2009*
Avon and Somerset	10
Bedfordshire	10
Cambridgeshire	9
Cheshire	5
Cleveland/Teesside	2
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	5
Devon and Cornwall	5
Dorset	6
Durham	2
Dyfed-Powys	0
Essex	15
Gloucester	2
Greater Manchester	27
Gwent	4
Hampshire	8
Hertfordshire	10
Humberside	3
Kent	15
Lancashire	8

LCJB area	*Number of offenders whose licences were revoked on or before 30 June 2008 and were not returned to custody by 26 June 2009*
Leicestershire	10
Lincolnshire	3
London	218
Merseyside	17
Norfolk	5
North Wales	3
North Yorkshire	2
Northamptonshire	3
Northumbria	5
Nottinghamshire	8
South Wales	14
South Yorkshire	13
Staffordshire	4
Suffolk	6
Surrey	6
Sussex	18
Thames Valley	21
Warwickshire	8
West Mercia	5
West Midlands	57
West Yorkshire	13
Wiltshire	0
Not specified[1]	27
Total	612

[1] These are not specified due to old records not containing address information. These offenders have been allocated to the area of last known address on the Police National Computer for operational purposes.

HEALTH

Augmented Care Period Dataset

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what categories of data his Department collects to maintain the augmented care period dataset. [284199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The augmented care dataset is no longer collected. It was replaced on 1 April 2006 by the Critical Care Minimum Dataset. The categories of data collected through the Critical Care Minimum Dataset are as follows:

Critical Care Local Identifier;
Critical Care Start Date;
Critical Care Unit Function;
Advanced Respiratory Support Days;
Basic respiratory Support Days;
Advanced Cardiovascular Support Days;
Basic Cardiovascular Support Days;
Renal Support Days;
Neurological Support Days;
Dermatological Support Days;
Liver Support Days;
Critical Care Level 3 Days;
Critical Care Level 2 Days; and
Critical Care Discharge Date.

Validated information for these categories is not available and the NHS Information Centre is conducting an audit process to ensure that reliable information is available for future years.

Blood Transfusions: Ireland

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 656, what the evidential basis was for the Minister of State's statement that the Irish Blood Transfusion Service was at fault. [283738]

Gillian Merron: There were two judicial inquiries in Ireland relating to contaminated blood and blood products which found that "wrongful acts were committed" by the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

Between 1977 and 1994, a large number of women in the Irish Republic were infected with Hepatitis C from contaminated Anti-D immunoglobulin produced by the Irish national blood transfusion service. An expert group set up by the Irish Government found the blood service to have been at fault, and the same conclusion was reached by a later judicial inquiry chaired by the Honourable Mr. Justice T. A. Finlay. The "Report of the Finlay Tribunal of Inquiry into the Blood Transfusion Service Board" was published on 6 March 1997.

On 2 June 1999, both Houses of the Oireachtas passed a Resolution that a further Tribunal of Inquiry should be established to examine and report on certain matters of urgent public importance relating to the infection with Hepatitis C and Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) of persons with haemophilia. The "Report of the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Infection with HIV and Hepatitis C of Persons with Haemophilia and Related Matters" was published on 5 September 2002 by Her Honour Judge Alison Lindsay.

Breast Cancer: Males

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men in each age group were *(a)* diagnosed with and *(b)* successfully treated for breast cancer in (i) Southend West constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each of the last 12 years. [283717]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men in each age group were (a) diagnosed with and (b) successfully treated for breast cancer in (i) Southend West constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last 12 years [283717].

The latest available figures for (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. There were 5 newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in males in (i) Southend West parliamentary constituency over the period 1995 to 2006. The number of cases of male breast cancer in all ages diagnosed in (ii) Essex county is shown in Table 1 for each of the last 12 years. Due to small numbers, further age and year breakdowns are not available for Southend West parliamentary constituency and Essex county.

The number of cases of male breast cancer in each age group diagnosed in (iii) England and Wales in each of the last 12 years is shown in Table 2.

It cannot be stated definitively whether a person has been (b) 'successfully treated' for breast cancer. For most cancers, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates. Survival rates for men diagnosed with breast cancer are therefore not available.

Figures for Essex county do not include Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer[1]: Essex county, 1995 to 2006

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Essex county	9	7	7	9	6	6	7	5	6	10	6	12

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer[1] by age group: England and Wales, 1995 to 2006

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Age group												
0-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
20-2[illegible]	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
25-29	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
30-34	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	0	3
35-39	2	0	1	1	3	2	4	1	4	4	4	3
40-44	4	3	4	3	6	3	2	4	6	8	7	6
45-49	7	11	9	5	6	9	7	10	9	9	7	11
50-54	14	12	18	22	18	16	15	15	21	10	13	14
55-59	15	21	18	19	23	21	27	19	30	24	31	28
60-64	27	17	26	29	36	26	26	34	43	32	25	36
65-69	30	31	42	48	39	27	32	34	36	39	28	33
70-74	48	40	48	42	44	27	56	47	35	36	48	51
75-79	43	41	28	38	50	52	30	46	56	47	27	42
80-84	22	22	21	38	34	23	28	27	41	43	24	40
85+	18	13	24	28	18	22	24	33	24	30	32	24
England and Wales	232	215	240	274	278	229	253	274	306	286	247	293

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Sources:

Office for National Statistics; Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273965]

(2) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273966]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273967]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273968]

(5) when he will answer question *(a)* 273965, *(b)* 273966, *(c)* 273967 and *(d)* 273968, tabled on 5 May 2009, on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281289]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) attended Cabinet on 16 April 2009 as the Secretary of State for Health. He was accompanied by a private secretary. He was not accompanied by any special advisers.

Total expenditure incurred by the Department was £1,064.25 for travel and £241.27 for overnight accommodation and food.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments are licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for the purposes of treating cancer of each ICD-10 classification. [283282]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to derive the figures contained in the table in Box 8 of his Department's first annual report on the Cancer Reform Strategy, Maintaining Momentum, published on 1 December 2008; and what the equivalent figures are for the latest year for which figures are available. [283771]

Ann Keen: The data shown in the table in Box 8 of the first annual report on the Cancer Reform Strategy were compiled using Hospital Episode Statistics showing the number of finished consultant episodes for cancer-related prostatectomy and cystectomy by trust for 1997-98 and 2006-07.

A table showing the count of finished consultant episodes for cancer-related prostatectomy, cystectomy and cystoprosatectomy by trust in 2007-08, the latest year for which this information is available, has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average cost to a resident of a single room in *(a)* a residential older people's home and *(b)* a nursing home. [283988]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

According to the Laing and Buisson report "Care of Elderly People: UK Market Survey 2008" the average weekly costs for single rooms in private care homes for older people in England in 2008-09, is shown in the following table.

£

	Care home with nursing	*Care homes*
Single	691	474
Sharing	584	416

People with less than £23,000 in capital can get help with the cost of residential care from their local authority social services department. According to the same report, 61 per cent. of the total cost of residential care is funded by social services, or by the national health service to cover nursing care.

Carers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer from Baroness Thornton of 13 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 364, on care services: older adults and disabled people, for what reasons publication of the Social Care Green Paper has been delayed; and if he will make a statement. [283523]

Phil Hope: It is widely accepted that the current care and support system will not be able to cope with the growing demands and expectations of those needing care in the future. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us all to help create a care and support system capable of supporting people well into the 21st century so it is important we get this right. The Green Paper will be published shortly.

Dementia: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS medical research budget was spent on researching dementia in the latest period for which figures are available. [284439]

Phil Hope: National health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research and National Institute for Health Research investment in dementia research amounted in 2007-08 to £22.2 million. This represents some 3 per cent. of the departmental research and development revenue budget for the year.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 852W, on departmental pay, how many staff in his Department received a salary of more than £100,000 in each year since 1997. [282769]

Phil Hope: The following table presents the data, which is derived from departmental reports for the years as requested.

In post date	*Number of staff earning a salary over £100,000 on that date*
1 April 2008	71
1 April 2007	72
1 April 2006	64
1 April 2005	71
1 April 2004	56
1 April 2003	52
1 April 2002	39
1 April 2001	30
1 April 2000	23
1 April 1999	16
1 April 1998	12
1 April 1997	8

These figures include secondees from the Department out to other organisations but not secondees from external organisations into the Department. Salaries included base pay and pay-related allowances but not bonuses. The figure for 1 April 2007 has been corrected from that given in the 2008 departmental report as that figure did not include allowances.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 852W, on departmental pay, what position each of the 71 senior civil servants holds; and what their average salary is. [282770]

Phil Hope: The average (mean) salary of the 71 civil servants mentioned in the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 852W, about departmental pay was £135,740.

The positions held by those 71 civil servants are listed as follows:

3 Permanent Secretaries

10 Directors General

35 Directors

5 Deputy Directors

18 Doctors employed by the Department on NHS pay terms.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282893]

Phil Hope: The Department and its two agencies (the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) are currently in a three-year pay settlement covered by the Pay Remit process. Discussions took place with trade unions in May 2009 about the possibility of recycling efficiency savings into the pay deal under the terms of the remit guidance but it was clear that the scale of efficiency savings required by the remit would not allow this. Hence, the decision was taken not to request money for 2009.

The Department has 10 executive non-departmental public bodies (ENDPBs). Of the eight ENDPBs covered by the Pay Remit process none has requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009, pay offers to staff. Two ENDPBs were granted leave by HM Treasury to apply the nationally agreed Agenda for Change three year pay settlement.

Departmental Reviews

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* taskforces and *(d)* departmental studies his Department is scheduled to undertake in the next 12 months; when each is to begin; when each is expected to be completed; what estimate he has made of the cost of each; and when the results of each will be published; [282206]

(2) what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* taskforces and *(d)* departmental studies his Department is conducting; what the purpose is of each; when each began; when each (i) was scheduled and (ii) is expected to be completed; what the cost of each (A) was originally estimated to be, (B) has been to date and (C) is expected to be on completion; and when the results of each will be published. [282207]

Phil Hope: The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the following key announcements have been made since 1 April 2009.

Subject	*Launch date*	*Closing date*	*Date published*	*Cost (£)*
Review of NHS Dentistry in England	12 December 2008	22 June 2009	22 June 2009	[1]435,000
NHS Medical Education England review of the effect of the European working time directive on junior doctor training	21 May 2009	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
NHS Taskforce on Violence against Women and Girls	13 May 2009	November 2009	November 2009	[3]—

[1] Estimate

[2] Details currently being considered

[3] Costs are likely to be minimal

The following formal written public consultations are currently "live" on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/index.htm

Subject	*Launch date*	*Closing date*
A new objective for MRSA: National Quality Board stakeholder engagement	11 June 2009	24 July 2009
The General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2010, and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Order of Council 2010—A paper for consultation.	4 June 2009	28 August 2009
A Department of Health consultation paper: draft guidance on provisions to deal with nuisance or disturbance behaviour on NHS premises in England	12 May 2009	4 August 2009
A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions	29 April 2009	15 September 2009
Consultation on ordinary residence guidance, directions and cross-border arrangements	21 April 2009	17 July 2009
Environmental design principles for adult medium secure units	17 April 2009	10 July 2009
The regulation of private hearing aid dispensers by the Health Professions Council: a paper for consultation	7 April 2009	7 July 2009

Drugs: Prisons

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* prisons the Integrated Drug Treatment System is operational. [282899]

Phil Hope: There have been four waves of Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) funding. The first wave of IDTS funding was announced in June 2006. Of the first to third waves (2006-07 to 2008-09 financial years) 78 of the 91 IDTS prisons have been assessed as having an operational service providing all the key elements of IDTS clinical and psychosocial services.

Of the 91 first to third waves of IDTS there are 19 prisons with a young offenders population. Only one young offenders institute that received IDTS funding in the third wave does not have an operational IDTS.

Health Education: Local Government

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he envisages for local government in the proposed health innovation education clusters. [283208]

Ann Keen: There is no single prescribed model for a health innovation and education cluster (HIEC) and each one will depend on local circumstances, but a local authority could be a formal partner in a HIEC through their responsibility for social care. That could create opportunities for innovation in care pathways, for example for long-term conditions, mental health and children's services. It could also lead to developments in the joint training of health and social care professionals.

Where a local authority is not a formal partner there will be a link to the HIEC through the local authority's role as a provider of services.

Health Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to NHS organisations on the provision of treatment by Travellers. [284093]

Phil Hope: The Department has embarked on work to improve the health status of Gypsy and Traveller communities, including the Pacesetter programme, which is designed to address health inequalities that arise from discrimination and disadvantage. Within Pacesetters, 18 participating trusts are trialling ways to improve access to the national health service for Gypsies and Travellers. The Department also commissioned NHS Primary Care Commissioning to produce a "Primary care commissioning framework: Gypsies and Traveller Communities", published in May 2009 as part of wider work for transient populations. A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure on *(a)* primary care and *(b)* hospital care in Hemel Hempstead in each of the next three years. [283678]

Phil Hope: Information is not held in the format requested.

Hemel Hempstead is covered by West Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT). PCTs fund primary care and hospital care services from their revenue allocations. The following table provides the funding allocated to West Hertfordshire PCT for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

	Allocation £000		*Two year increase*	
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*£000*	*Percentage*
West Hertfordshire PCT	773,604	813,300	78,190	10.6

Revenue allocations post 2010-11 have not yet been determined.

Once the allocations have been made, it is for PCTs to commission the health care services they need to meet the needs of the populations they serve, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS Operating Framework.

Health Visitors: Registration

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new registrations of health visitors there were in each year from 1999 to 2004. [284464]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally; the Nursing and Midwifery Council maintains health visitor registrations.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new entries were included on the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Register and annotated as qualified in the health visitor area of practice in each 12 month period from August 2004. [284582]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally; the Nursing and Midwifery Council maintains all nursing registrations.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average in-patient waiting time for treatment on the NHS was in each primary care trust area in England in each of the last 10 years. [283423]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on median in-patient waiting times for elective admission (by commissioner) for 1999 to 2009 has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average a child waited from initial assessment for mental health service therapeutic support in each local authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [283292]

Phil Hope: Information is not available in the form requested. However, the child and adolescent mental health services mapping data produced on behalf of the Department by Durham university shows that of a sample of 23,091 children in England who were waiting for mental health services in November 2007: 9,986 had waited less than four weeks; 7,797 from four to 13 weeks; 3,084 from 13 to 26 weeks; and 2,024 had waited more than 26 weeks.

Methadone: Biometrics

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which prisons a biometric-based, computer-controlled methadone dispensing system has been installed; and what expenditure his Department incurred in respect of each such installation. [282998]

Phil Hope: To date the biometric-based computer methadone dispensing system has been installed in the following 57 prisons:

HMP Altcourse
HMP Belmarsh
HMP Birmingham
HMP Brixton
HMP Buckley Hall
HMP Bullingdon Community
HMP Channingswood
HMP Chelmsford
HMP Dartmoor
HMP Doncaster
HMP Dorchester
HMP Ashwell
HMP Bristol
HMP Haverigg
HMP Highdown
HMP Kennet
HMP Kirkham
HMP Lancaster Castle
HMP Leicester
HMP Lewes
HMP Lincoln
HMP Downview
HMP Durham
HMP Eastwood Park
HMP Edmunds Hill
HMP Elmley
HMP Erlestoke
HMP Featherstone
HMP Foston Hall
HMP Gloucester

HMP Nottingham
HMP Preston
HMP Rochester
HMP Shrewsbury
HMP Standford Hill
HMP Sudbury
HMP Leyland
HMP Wellingborough
HMP Lindholme
HMP Low Newton
HMP Liverpool
HMP Lowdham Grange
HMP Maidstone
HMP Manchester
HMP Moorland
HMP New Hall
HMP Norwich
HMP Pentonville
HMP Reading
HMP Ryehill
HMP Stafford
HMP Stocken
HMP Wandsworth
HMP Wealstun

The total value of the contract is £4 million. Biometric-ased computer methadone dispensing systems are currently lanned for installation in 70 prisons.

Methadone: Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for lealth how many young offenders in custody are being reated with *(a)* methadone and *(b)* subutex. [illegible]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available.

NHS: Absenteeism

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health hat the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting rom injury at work was among NHS employees in (i) ssex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years; hat estimate he has made of the cost to the public urse of such absences; and if he will make a tatement. [illegible]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Assets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health he will place in the Library a copy of the Estates eturns Information Collection (ERIC) data fields and efinitions for 2008-09; and when he expects the 008-09 ERIC data to be available. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A copy of the Estates Returns nformation Collection (ERIC) data fields and definitions r 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

The ERIC 2008-09 data will be published by the HS Information Centre in October 2009 and will be vailable for downloading from the Hospital Estates nd Facilities Statistics website at:

www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk

NHS: Religious Practice

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will revise his Department's document, NHS chaplaincy: meeting the religious and spiritual needs of patients and staff of 2003 to reflect the needs of the secular community; and if he will include in the working party referred to in annex 3 of the document members and representatives of the secular community. [284314]

Phil Hope: There are no current plans to revise this publication. Following the passage of the Equality Bill that is currently before Parliament, the Department will consider whether there is a need to revise guidance on issues of religion and belief, including NHS chaplaincy.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the state of readiness returns submitted to his Department in relation to the European Working Time Directive. [284465]

Phil Hope: We will publish the information in due course.

Palliative Care: East of England

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust within the East of England Strategic Health Authority has spent on *(a)* specialist palliative care, *(b)* palliative care and *(c)* hospice provision in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [283649]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. It is for individual primary care trusts to decide the level of funding that is allocated to local end of life care services based on assessments of local needs and priorities.

Public Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's capital underspend in 2009-10; and how much of that sum he proposes to return to the Exchequer. [284326]

Phil Hope: Details of the Department's capital expenditure forecasts for 2008-09 to 2010-11 were published in the 2009 departmental report (page 218), copies of which are available in the Library.

The Department's 2008-09 capital expenditure forecast outturn will be set out in HM Treasury's "Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper" to be published during week commencing 13 July 2009.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 251W, on social care: research, if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of the research by the Personal Social Services Research Unit. [284466]

Phil Hope: The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) report, "Analysing the costs and benefits of social care funding arrangements in England: technical report, Forder, J. and Fernandez, J-L, PSSRU Discussion Paper 2644, 2009" has been published today (6 July 2009).

The report is available from the following website:

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Additional research by the PSSRU will be published in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Elevate East Lancashire: Finance

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Elevate East Lancashire housing renewal pathfinder will be for each of the next five years; and how much of the budget will be spent in Burnley. [284188]

Mr. Ian Austin: The ministerial statement of 28 February 2008 set out indicative allocations for HMR—housing market renewal—pathfinders over the CSR period; these are currently being reviewed. It is too early to comment on future levels of funding for the HMR programme as this will form part of the next spending review discussions. Financial information regarding HMR funding is not collected centrally for local authority areas.

Green Belt: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to protect *(a)* the green belt and *(b)* open green spaces in Hemel Hempstead. [283680]

Mr. Ian Austin: National and regional planning policy (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 and the East of England Plan) both contain policy to protect green belt land and there remains a strong presumption against development.

The East of England Plan, published in May 2008 required a possible strategic review of green belt land around Hemel Hempstead to meet regional development needs. A recent successful judicial review of this policy and its associated housing figures now require the Secretary of State to reconsider options for growth around Hemel Hempstead.

Government planning policy (Policy Guidance Note 17) sets out the Government's approach to the provision of open space. The East of England Plan (Policy ENV1) also includes policy on creation and maintenance and creation of networks of green infrastructure. Dacorum borough council's local development plans will then make provision for open green space, including the setting of open space standards.

Housing: Energy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people had obtained a diploma in *(a)* domestic energy assessment and *(b)* home inspection in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point on the latest date for which figures are available. [284467]

John Healey: Training courses to gain diplomas to become either domestic energy assessors and home inspectors are provided by independent, commercial training providers, and so the Government do not collect centrally statistics about the numbers of people undertaking such training and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited energy assessors there are on the Landmark database; how many people have undertaken training courses to gain this accreditation; and what expenditure his Department has incurred in the provision of such training to date. [284593]

John Healey: A total of 11,967 accredited energy assessors are currently registered on the domestic Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Register and 3,027 accredited energy assessors are registered on the non-domestic EPC Register. Training courses to gain accreditation are provided by commercial training providers. No data are collected centrally on the numbers of people that have undertaken training courses and to do so would involve disproportionate cost. No expenditure has been incurred by the Department in the provision of training.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received assistance under the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme, *(b)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme and (c) HomeBuy Direct scheme in Kettering since the inception of each scheme. [284415]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme headline data for January-May 2009, provided by local authorities and broken down by Government Office Region, are available on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January-May 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Official figures on the number of households entering the Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme will be published later this year.

As of end June 2009 there have been no sales under Home-Buy Direct in Kettering.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in multiple occupation were registered under *(a)* mandatory, *(b)* additional and *(c)* selective licensing schemes in each local authority area in England in each year since licensing was introduced. [284435]

Mr. Ian Austin: The total number of applications for mandatory licences for houses in multiple occupation and the numbers of these issued by each local authority in England up to 17 June 2009 are shown in Table 1, which has been placed in the Library of the House.

To date only 11 local authorities have designated areas for selective licensing.

The numbers of selective licences issued by each up to 6 July 2009 are shown in Table 2, which has been placed in the Library of the House.

To date only Peterborough has an additional licensing scheme. This only came into effect on 1 July 2009 and so, to date, no additional licences have been issued.

Property Development: Floods

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for completion of the research commissioned by his Department into the effects of paving on back gardens on levels of flood risk; how much that research has cost; and which organisation has been commissioned to undertake that research. [283842]

Mr. Ian Austin: The contract for this research was awarded to CIRIA—the Construction Industry Research and Information Association—at a cost of £49,964 excluding VAT. The research is nearing completion and the final report will be published shortly, alongside a package of proposals taking forward a number of recommendations from the Killian Pretty review of the planning process.

Retail Trade: Urban Areas

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints his Department has received on the balance of retail and non-retail outlets in town centres in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [283490]

Mr. Ian Austin: We do not hold statistics on how many complaints have been received on the balance of retail and non-retail outlets in town centres. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Rented Housing: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the application of freedom of information legislation to information held by registered social landlords; and if he will make a statement. [284493]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government has received one representation on the application of the freedom of information legislation to registered social landlords.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 only applies to those public authorities listed in the Act. Local authorities are listed, but registered social landlords are not, and are therefore not subject to the Act.

Temporary Accommodation: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years; and what the average time a household spent in such accommodation was. [283674]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Integrated Children's System

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he had with local authorities on the Integrated Children's System prior to its introduction. [284584]

Dawn Primarolo: The original Integrated Children's System (ICS) requirements were developed between 2001 and 2003, while children's social care services were the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health. Ten consultation events were held in 2000 with over 500 representatives from organisations responsible for child welfare in England and Wales, including local authority social services departments, private and voluntary agencies, the then Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, pilot post-qualifying child care courses, software houses, and a number of other interested individuals. Following the Department's assumption of responsibility for ICS, my officials have maintained regular contact with local authority officers involved in implementation. Additional consultative events were held with local authorities in May 2008 to inform my Department's preparation of the specification of ICS Phase 1C.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Integrated Children's System to date. [284592]

Dawn Primarolo: Expenditure incurred on the Integrated Children's System (ICS) project from 2004-05 until 31 March 2009 was £72.6 million, including £63.2 million paid in capital grant to local authorities and £9.4 million on project costs.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit has become operational; [284580]

(2) what appointments have been made to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to date. [284581]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit became operational on 1 July 2009. The unit will be publishing a detailed work programme in September 2009.

16 staff are already in post including staff from the Department of Children Schools and Families, Ministry of Justice, Department of Health and the Home Office. In addition, existing staff in Government Offices working on safeguarding issues form part of the unit. Further recruitment is planned, including secondments into the unit from regional and local partners and the voluntary sector. A Head of Unit, responsible for the day-to-day running of the Unit will be recruited through open competition; this post will be advertised shortly.

Outdoor Education: Safety

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 706W, on outdoor education: safety, for what reason his Department's revised guidance on health and safety of pupils on educational visits was not published in the first quarter of 2009; and when he plans to publish the revised guidance. [279408]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Out and About website for Learning Outside the Classroom, which went live in autumn 2008, includes brief guidelines on the safety of learners on activities outside the classroom.

A more detailed toolkit for local authorities, including model forms, will supplement this later this year, completing the Department's revision of the operational aspects of the guidance we published in 1998 and 2002.

We will consult shortly on a high level document, provisionally entitled "Health and Safety of Learners Outside the Classroom", which will underpin the material on the Learning Outside the Classroom website at:

http://www.lotc.org.uk/

We had hoped to start consultation on this document earlier this year, but put this back to allow more time to ensure coherence between it and the toolkit.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget for pupil referral units in each local authority area was in each year since 1997. [282026]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 July 2009]*: The available information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Teachers: Pensions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of teachers at *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools who are registered with the Teachers Pension Scheme online service. [284461]

Mr. Coaker: There are 100,296 members registered with the Teachers Pension Scheme online service. Members do not provide information about their employment when they register and therefore the information split into sectors is not available.

Teaching Methods: Tyne and Wear

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the results of the spaced learning experiment on accelerated learning in Monkseaton school in Tyneside; and if he will make a statement. [284436]

Mr. Coaker: The Department is aware of the 'spaced learning' teaching method used at Monkseaton school. There do not appear to have been a sufficiently robust or peer-reviewed evaluation of the approach which would allow any clear link between the teaching method and pupils' learning to be established.

Youth Citizenship Commission

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department made any representations to the Youth Citizenship Commission in respect of the drafting of its final report, "Making the connection: building youth citizenship in the UK"; [284462]

(2) whether his Department has any power to direct the work of the Youth Citizenship Commission. [284470]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Youth Citizenship Commission was independent of Government. Secretariat support was provided by the Ministry of Justice. DCSF officials along with those from other Government Departments were asked to comment on the accuracy of statements. The Government will respond to the report's recommendations in due course.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Enterprise Champion

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the responsibilities are of the Enterprise Champion in his Department; what the relationship between the Enterprise Champion and *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants is; what resources his Department will make available to the Enterprise Champion in his official capacity; and if he will make a statement. [278968]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 June 2009]*: The Enterprise Champion will offer independent advice to Government from a business perspective drawing on his own experience and on consultations around the country. He will raise awareness among entrepreneurs and businesses about the practical help that is available from Government and other sources. He will also champion the cause of viable small companies with banks, encouraging lending to continue during the recession.

The Enterprise Champion will have the use of a physical office for meetings if required but will not have a dedicated staff. Support for his work will be provided by civil servants responsible for enterprise who will provide him with briefing and arrange visits relevant to their areas as part of their normal responsibilities.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who will be seeking full-time university courses in England following the publication of relevant examinations results in August 2009. [283097]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The information is not held centrally. The latest figures published by UCAS show that as at 24 March, 474,306 students from the UK and overseas had submitted one or more applications for entry to a full-time undergraduate course at an institution in England, an increase of 8.9 per cent. compared to the same point in 2008. The total number of applicants to English institutions in 2008 was 485,936.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies have received payments from the £2.3 billion scheme for the automotive industry; and how many such companies have received monies for low-carbon technology investments. [281195]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* No loans or loan guarantees have yet been given under the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP). We have now had requests for further information from over 80 companies, seeking a wide range of funding from a few million to several hundred million pounds, resulting in 19 formal expressions of interest which are being pursued at the pace set by the companies. The details of these projects are commercially sensitive and subject to agreement.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make provision for the vehicle scrappage scheme to be open to persons who have taken on the registration of a vehicle over 10 years old which was initially registered in the name of their deceased spouse. [281255]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* We have given careful consideration to the issue of whether it would be possible to make an exception to this rule in the case of consumers who have taken over the registration of a vehicle which was previously registered to a spouse who has died, but have concluded that this will not be possible.

The rules of the scheme are that the registered keeper of the old and new vehicle must be the same person, and that the old vehicle must have been registered to the keeper continuously for 12 months before the order date of the new vehicle. This rule was put in place for two main reasons. First, the rule seeks to prevent the sorts of abuses that have taken place in other EU countries, for example where individuals bought a very old car for a token sum simply in order to take advantage of scrappage scheme. Secondly, given the need to provide urgent support to the industry it was imperative to launch the scheme quickly and to ensure the scheme was simple and that bureaucracy and costs for all parties were minimised.

It is a regrettable fact that we have had instances of less scrupulous individuals seeking to identify loopholes in the scheme in order to abuse it. It is clear that if we make an exception to the rules of this nature, unscrupulous individuals will seek to exploit what they will see as a loophole. It is also clear that to make an exception of this nature will very significantly add to the administrative burden and complexity of the scheme and require non-experts (dealers) to check facts and documentation which they are not equipped to verify, which in turn would raise further concerns about the capacity for abuse of the scheme. For example, dealers would need to verify whether the person who was the keeper of the car in question has in fact died and whether the car in question has in fact been left to the person proposing to scrap it (as opposed to another relative, friend, charity etc.). This in turn would raise issues in the case of those who had died intestate and of whether or not probate had been obtained, again adding to the complexity of the scheme and the capacity for abuse.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has disbursed under the Automotive Assistance Scheme since the scheme's inception. [281727]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* No loans or loan guarantees have yet been given under the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP). We have now had requests for further information from over 80 companies, seeking a wide range of funding from a few million to several hundred million pounds, resulting in 19 formal expressions of interest which are being pursued at the pace set by the companies. The details of these projects are commercially sensitive and subject to agreement.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279822]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs, on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 280W.

This has been updated in the following table.

Number of full time equivalent staff within BIS, UKTI and RDAs working on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

		Of which:				
Name of organisation	*Total number of current staff*	*(i) working on project management*	*(ii) working on legacy planning*	*(iii) working on project oversight*	*(iv) working on financial oversight*	*Planned future staffing levels*
BIS	3.25	0	3.25	0	0	No planned changes

Number of full time equivalent staff within BIS, UKTI and RDAs working on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

		Of which:				
Name of organisation	*Total number of current staff*	*(i) working on project management*	*(ii) working on legacy planning*	*(iii) working on project oversight*	*(iv) working on financial oversight*	*Planned future staffing levels*
UKTI	2.5	0	2.5	0	0	+ 1
AWM	2.15	1	0.75	0.2	0.2	+ 1 (Inspire Mark post funded by DCMS)
EEDA[1]	4.7	3.05	1.25	0.3	0.1	+1
EMDA	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	No planned changes
LDA[2]	75	0	75	0	0	Changes planned as Legacy Company is set up
NWDA	1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	+ 1 (Inspire Programme funded by DCMS)
ONE	1	0.25	0.25	0.45	0.05	No planned changes
SEEDA	3.2	1	1	1	0.2	No planned changes
SWERDA	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	No planned changes
YF	0.35	0.1	0.15	0.05	0.05	No planned changes
Total	97.15	6.7	85.45	3.2	1.8	+4

[1] EEDA is the only region outside London with two Olympic venues which require a level of project management and coordination, as well as having the highest level of businesses registered on CompeteFor outside London. Three posts are working for Nations and Regions East on behalf of all the local authorities in the East of England, as well as Sport England EEDA.

[2] The LDA has a dedicated Olympic Legacy Directorate whose staffing will change as the recently formed Olympic Legacy company establishes itself. Within the 75 FTEs there are project managers and accountants providing financial oversight but they are all ultimately working to deliver a sustainable legacy for London following the Games.

Part-time Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average fee grant received by part-time students for courses with an intensity of *(a)* between 50 to 59 per cent., *(b)* between 60 to 74 per cent. and *(c)* 75 per cent. or more was in the latest year for which figures are available. [282966]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows:

Average part-time fee grant by intensity band academic year 2007-08 England

Intensity band	*Average part-time fee grant (£)*[1]
Equivalent to 50 per cent. to 59 per cent. of full-time course	550
Equivalent to 60 per cent. to 74 per cent. of full-time course	750
Equivalent to 75 per cent. or more of full-time course	930

[1] Average rounded to nearest £10.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent in *(a)* (i) fee grant payments, (ii) course grant payments and (iii) teaching and learning payments for part-time students to institutions from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(b)* other forms of support for part-time students in the latest year for which figures are available. [282967]

Mr. Lammy: In academic year 2007/08, part-time students in England were awarded fee grants of £28.5 million and course grants of £11.7 million.

The following table shows the notional funding associated with taught part-time students funded through the teaching funding method.

HEFCE part-time funding, 2007/08 academic year[1]

	£ million
Standard Resource	1,013.1
Assumed fee income	353.5
Notional grant (resource minus fees)	659.7
Widening access for people from disadvantaged backgrounds	55.2
Improving retention	57.4
Model 2 Lifelong Learning Networks	8.2
Co-funded employer engagement	5.0
Total 2007/08 notional funding	785.4

[1] The HEFCE figures in the table are based on final allocations announced for 2007/08. They do not take account of grant adjustments arising from institutions recruitment in that year. Figures do not include non-recurrent elements of grant, such as capital funding.

In addition, £35.8 million was provided through the 2007-08 HEFCE research funding method for part-time postgraduate research students registered at English higher education institutions.

Retail Trade

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department in taking to encourage small independent businesses located in urban high streets. [282943]

Mr. McFadden: The tougher economic conditions have made us more determined to help SMEs. We have met with business organisations and businesses across the country to discuss the problems they are facing and to ensure that their views are reflected in Government action. The Government's package of support—Real Help—focuses on those top priorities—cash flow, access to finance, higher bank charges and costs and training.

In April the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport jointly published "Looking After Our Town Centres", which sets out the range of powers, guidance and approaches that can help local authorities and their partners promote the vitality and viability of town centres, and explains additional steps that the Government are taking to enable further positive action to be taken, particularly through the temporary use of empty shops. The guide can be downloaded from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/towncentres

Small independent shops (and other businesses) occupying a sole property with a rateable value below £15,000 may benefit from small business rate relief. For the businesses occupying the smallest properties, this can mean a saving of up to 50 per cent. of their business rates.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people with *(a)* maintenance loans, *(b)* tuition fee loans and *(c)* both maintenance and tuition fee loans have outstanding debts to the Student Loans Company. [282842]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows.

Borrowers by loan type, including loans not yet due for repayment, March 2009

Income contingent loan type	*Number of borrowers (number)*[1]
Income contingent maintenance loans only	1,680,800
Tuition fee loans only	75,000
Both maintenance and fee loans	887,300

[1] Figures cover English domiciled borrowers who studied or are studying in the UK and EU students studied/studying in England. EU students are not eligible for maintenance loans. Figures rounded to nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company

In addition 298,200 borrowers have the older mortgage-style maintenance loans. Some of these may also have income-contingent loans from a second period of study and would therefore be included in the table above.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much interest was accrued on outstanding debts to the Student Loans Company in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [282843]

Mr. Lammy: The Statistical First Release 'Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2008-09 (Provisional)' shows £585.6 million of interest was added to student loans in 2007-08 and £759.5 million in 2008-09.

This document is available from the Student Loans Company website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009.pdf

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount the Student Loans Company will lend in *(a)* tuition fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans to (i) domestic and (ii) overseas students in the 2008-09 academic year. [282853]

Mr. Lammy: Early provisional 2008-09 figures and complete figures for amounts lent in academic year 2007-08 are available in the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008-09 (Provisional). This is published on the Student Loans Company website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009.pdf

An update to this annual publication, containing complete 2008-09 information, will be published on a pre-announced date, towards the end of the year.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people borrowed money from the Student Loans Company for *(a)* maintenance only, *(b)* tuition only and *(c)* maintenance and tuition in the latest academic year for which figures are available. [282965]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows.

Numbers of students who took out student loans by type in academic year 2007-08

Loan type	*Borrowers (number)*[1]
Both fee loan and maintenance loan	514,600
Maintenance loan only	237,000
Fee loan only	52,100

[1] English domiciled borrowers studying in the UK and EU borrowers studying in England.
Source:
Student Loan Company

Written Questions: Government Responses

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 274337, *(b)* 274338 and *(c)* 274339, tabled on 6 May 2009, on General Motors Europe. [283336]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 96-97W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's and its predecessor's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280533]

Joan Ruddock: In 2007-08, DEFRA installed a powerPerfector in 3 Whitehall Place. The unit, installation and delivery costs were £70,878.35 (including VAT). Overall energy consumption reduced by 8.66 per cent. from the installation date (March 2008) to May 2009.

Since its inception in October 2008, DECC, working with Carbon Trust and others, has identified and started to implement a range of energy efficiency measures at its HQ in 3 Whitehall Place. These include changes to lighting, heating and cooling controls, through optimisation of the building management system. Initial estimates suggest that investment in this work could be recovered in little over one year due to projected energy savings.

Fuel Poverty: North-West

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce levels of fuel poverty in *(a)* the North-West and *(b)* Lancashire. [278680]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 June 2009]:* Warm Front is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty and, since 2005, has spent approximately £230 million on a range of energy efficiency measures in the North West region, including insulation and full central heating systems. Data are not available on a county basis.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for national programmes aimed at reducing fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, CERT and Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, Eaga and NEA (such as Warm Zones and CEEF) are all important in tackling fuel poverty across regions of England.

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable has been set for his Department's programme for the insulation of six million homes; and how many homes had been insulated under that programme at the latest date for which figures are available. [284041]

Joan Ruddock: We continue to work with energy suppliers and the insulation industry towards the Prime Minister's commitment to insulate six million households by the end of 2011. The contributing schemes are the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT); the Warm Front programme; the Decent Homes programme; and when it becomes operational, the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP).

We estimate that in 2008-09 around 1.5 million households received insulation under these schemes. Households may receive more than one insulation measure[1] so the number of insulation measures delivered is greater than 1.5 million.

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[1] Ofgem's final report of the second phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC2) concluded, on the basis of monitoring results, that each household that benefited from professionally installed insulation measures received on average 1.3 measures.

Renewable Energy: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Lunar tidal power project off the Pembrokeshire coast; and if he will make a statement. [279457]

Mr. Kidney: We are aware of plans by Lunar and E.ON to develop an underwater tidal stream power project off the Pembrokeshire coast and my noble Friend the Minister of State had a meeting with Lunar in January. However, we have not received a formal request for consenting approval.

TREASURY

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 894W, on Government Departments: standards, whether his Department uses a formula to take performance against public service agreement targets into account in spending reviews. [283468]

Mr. Timms: No simple formulaic approach is applied during spending reviews. However, a Department's performance during the previous spending review period is always taken into account when settlements are made.

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of money from dormant bank accounts will be allocated to each of the three funding priorities for England under the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008; [272051]

(2) when he plans to direct the Big Lottery Fund to distribute funding to good causes under the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008. [272054]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* The allocation between each of the spending areas for England will be determined by a cross-Government working group, which will continue to meet this year to draft the spending directions to issue to the Big Lottery Fund on the scheme's launch.

The Government intend the scheme to be operational as soon as possible, subject to parliamentary approval.

Government Departments: Finance

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 894W, on Government Departments standards, from which Departments funding has been withheld as a result of not meeting public service agreement targets since July 1998. [283484]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary on 24 June 2009, *Official Report,* columns 893-94W.

Money Laundering

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the Financial Action Task Force on the proposals made by the G20 leaders to improve the processes for compliance by jurisdictions with anti-money laundering and combating financial terrorism standards. [284267]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury leads the UK delegation to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At its last plenary session on the 24-26 June 2009, the FATF agreed changes to its procedures for dealing with jurisdictions whose anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regimes present a risk to the global financial system. It also agreed a written report to be submitted to the G20 leaders' summit in September.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of appeals made to the Valuation Office Agency against assessment for business rates resulted in a change to rateable value in each billing authority area in each of the last five years; [284032]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of appeals made to the Valuation Office Agency in respect of ratings assessments for business rates relating to *(a)* a valuation officer changing a property's rateable value, *(b)* part of the property becoming exempted from rate liability and *(c)* a material change in circumstances affecting the value of the property in each of the last five years; [284226]

(3) how many appeals against ratings assessments for business rates levied in each billing authority area have been made to the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years. [284227]

Mr. Timms: A copy of this information has been placed in the Library.

Private Finance Initiative: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on the use of international financial reporting standards in the accounting treatment of private finance initiative liabilities. [283512]

Ian Pearson: Central Government financial reporting from 1 April 2009 is based on EU adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

The IFRS based accounting policy for Public Private Partnership arrangements, including for PFI contracts, is detailed in the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

The FReM accounting for PFI is based on International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) Interpretation 12 Service Concession Arrangements, as interpreted for the public sector.

Public Expenditure: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2009 Budget on pensioners resident in Coventry. [272953]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

In the 2009 Budget the Chancellor announced a number of measures that will benefit pensioners, including those in Coventry.

In order to help those pensioners who receive income from savings and who may have been affected by lower interest rates, the Government will be increasing the threshold in pension credit (and housing and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) from £6,000 to £10,000 from November 2009, so that pensioners can have up to £10,000 without it affecting their benefits; launching a tax back awareness campaign in autumn 2009 to encourage all those in receipt of pension credit to ensure they are not paying tax on their savings that they do not have to and to claim back overpaid tax; and from 2009-10, the amounts that people aged 50 and over can save in an Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be increased to £10,200 of which £5,100 can be saved in cash form (effective from 6 October 2009).

In addition there will be a repeat of this years additional winter fuel payment of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over in winter 2009-10. This means the winter fuel payments will be £250 and £400 respectively for winter 2009-10 which provides a significant contribution towards an older person's winter fuel bill.

The Government have also committed to maintain the standard interest rate applied in the support for mortgage interest scheme at 6.08 per cent. for a further six months until the end of December 2009, this will help those on pension credit who receive help with their mortgage.

The Government also reconfirmed their commitment to uprate the basic state pension by a minimum of 2.5 per cent. should the retail prices index fall below 2.5 per cent. in September 2009.

A further change announced in the 2009 Budget is for grandparents who stop work to care for their grandchildren before they reach state pension age. They will be eligible to receive national insurance credits that will top up their basic state pension. This change is due to come into effect in 2011 and will make it easier for grandparents who take on significant caring responsibilities.

Revenue and Customs: Redundancy

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid by HM Revenue and Customs in redundancy packages to employees following recent branch closures. [283699]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has not made any staff compulsorily redundant and is committed to avoiding this where at all practical. Instead HMRC is actively seeking to redeploy as many staff as possible into suitable alternative posts, both within HMRC and to other government departments.

Alongside this redeployment programme HMRC has also run a number of lower cost voluntary early release schemes and has offered these to eligible staff. Since April 2005 6,561 staff have left HMRC under these schemes at a cost of around £299 million. The savings in salary costs from these releases are estimated at £691 million.

Although all decisions on office closures have now been announced, the actual closures will be phased over a period of time. Through this implementation phase the redeployment of staff remains HMRC's highest priority.

Students: Loans

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have complained to HM Revenue and Customs about the way in which money has been collected from their salaries for the Student Loans Company in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [284378]

Mr. Timms: HMRC collects income-contingent student loan repayments and forwards information about these to the Student Loans Company (SLC), who administer borrower accounts. In the last three tax years HMRC has sent SLC over 4.3 million reports of the total student loan repayments deducted from the annual salaries of individual borrowers.

During this period HMRC has received 22 complaints from student loan borrowers about the repayment collection process from salaries:

	Number of complaints
2006-07	5
2007-08	5
2008-09	12

Welfare Tax Credit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made since the introduction of tax credits in 2003 to *(a)* the clarity of award notices, *(b)* the length of the accompanying notes and *(c)* the numbers of duplicate items. [283643]

Mr. Timms: A revised version of the award notice, reflecting comments from the voluntary and community sector has been in use since April 2006, giving the customer information about entitlement, overpayments and recovery arrangements. Additionally, claimants now receive a summary sheet that explains the most important aspects of their award. This summary highlights the key areas of their award that they need to check, for example, number of children, child care costs, income and account details.

HMRC seek to minimise the number of times it has to send notices to both couples in a household. For example, HMRC generally only issues one annual renewal pack per household if a reply is required. There are some instances where legislation means HMRC have to send out individual notices to each partner but HMRC constantly review their communications and are always exploring ways to improve the customer experience.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 413W, on the Lenders' Panel, on what dates the Lending Panel has met; and on what dates it is scheduled to meet. [283692]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: At the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government announced the creation of a new Lending Panel, which meets regularly to monitor lending to businesses and households. The Lending Panel brings together lenders, trade bodies, consumer groups, and the Government, regulators and the Bank of England. The Lending Panel has met approximately monthly since its inception, and will continue to meet as appropriate.

Welfare Tax Credit: Revenue and Customs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methods HM Revenue and Customs uses to measure the effectiveness of its service to tax credit claimants. [283511]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs uses a range of methods to measure the effectiveness of its service to tax credits claimants. The key ones are explained in HMRC's Business Plan for 2009-10 'Delivering our vision' available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/business-plan-vision.pdf

JUSTICE

Asbestos

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State of Business, Innovation and Skills on that Department's estimate of its *(a)* current and *(b)* projected liabilities arising from the use of asbestos; and if he will make a statement. [284310]

Bridget Prentice: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has provided the Ministry of Justice with estimates of its liabilities for pleural plaques in the context of the Government's consideration of the issues raised in its consultation on pleural plaques.

Burges Salmon Solicitors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent representations he has received on the Solicitors Regulation Authority's handling of the case of complaints against Burges Salmon Solicitors; and if he will make a statement; [284437]

(2) what recent representations he has received on Burges Salmon Solicitors' provision of mortgage and other financial advice; and if he will make a statement. [284438]

Bridget Prentice: Three Members of Parliament have written to me concerning the conduct of Burges Salmon LLP and the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) subsequent investigation into complaints received from members of the public. I have also received representations from a concerned member of the public. All the representations I have received are in relation to the provision of legal advice in mortgage and other financial matters.

Complaints about professional misconduct of solicitors are matters for the SRA to investigate, as the legal profession is independent from the Government. As such, I cannot comment on individual cases. If consumers are unhappy with the way the SRA has conducted its investigation or the final decision reached, they should refer the matter to the Legal Services Ombudsman (LSO). The LSO protects the interests of the consumers of legal services by ensuring that the professional regulators conduct fair, thorough and efficient investigations of complaints about their members.

Community Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons offenders undertaking unpaid work under the Children and Adoption Act 2006 are not required to wear identifiable clothing. [263855]

Mr. Straw: The Children and Adoption Act 2006 makes unpaid work available as a requirement of an enforcement order for breach of a child contact order in the Family Proceedings court, County court and High Court. A person who has breached a contact order can be required to undertake between 40 and 200 hours unpaid work, which is intended to ensure future compliance with the contact order. The fact that these offenders have not been included in the Community Payback scheme is anomalous. I am therefore actively considering the inclusion of these orders in the scheme.

Community Supervision

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who were the subject of community supervision during *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 had previously been held in custody; and how many people were on community supervision in each of those years. [282400]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the table.

As at December each year	*Community supervision*	*Previously in custody*
2007	150,179	54,018
2008	146,725	n/a

Notes:
1. The number of offenders on community supervision in 2007 has been drawn from the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 report which includes all pre CJA orders, community orders and suspended sentence orders. The number of offenders who had a previous immediate custodial sentence has been derived from the dataset for the publication extracted from the police national computer.
2. Information on the previous criminal history of offenders under community supervision at end 2008 will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 on 31 July 2009.

The case load figures can be found in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/omcs2007.pdf

and in the Probation Statistics Quarterly Brief October to December 2008 at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/quarterly-probation-brief-q4-2008.pdf

The police national computer is an administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

County Courts: Judgments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the civil procedure rules do not require a claimant applying for a county court judgment to produce evidence of admission of the defendant. [284250]

Bridget Prentice: The civil procedure rules require a defendant who wishes to admit a claim to send their admission direct to the claimant to allow them to make an offer of payment, or pay the claim in full, without unnecessarily involving the court.

A claimant may request a judgment based on an admission by filing a prescribed form. By signing the form, the claimant certifies that the defendant admits that all the money is owed.

Rule 32.14 of the civil procedure rules provides that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against a person if he makes, or causes to be made, a false statement. Where a party does make a false statement, the courts, when such actions are brought to their attention, treat them very seriously and judges may make orders as they see fit. However, such instances are very rare.

Courts: Reprography

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many courts provide photocopying facilities in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the East Midlands; and how many courts charge for the use of such a facility. [283608]

Bridget Prentice: HMCS does not hold information about the number of courts within England and Wales, including the East Midlands, which provide photocopying facilities. However, all courts will usually provide some facility for copying documents. A fee is payable for a request to copy documents in civil and family courts and in any probate registry as prescribed by the relevant fees orders.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* agency staff in 2008-09; [279236]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in 2008-09; [276479]

(3) how much the National Offender Management Scheme spent on consultants in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [277804]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is set out as follows:

Consultants

The Ministry's provisional expenditure on external consultants in 2008-09 is £53,600,000. This is disclosed in the Ministry of Justice Departmental Annual Report 2008-09 on page 72 which can be found in the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/justice-annual-report-2008-09.htm

This amount covers the Ministry of Justice HQ, HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, and the National Offender Management Service. This figure is an early estimate and will be subject to change.

The Office of Government Commerce collates data on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value programme which assists Departments in driving greater value from Government's use of consultants. The Ministry's expenditure on consultancy for 2007-08 is reported as £56 million and can be found in the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

The finalised figures for 2008-09 will be available on this website in due course. A manual data collection exercise for this period is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009 with the data expected at 31 October 2009.

Expenditure on external consultants by the National Offender Management Service in the financial year 2007-08 was £6.9 million of which £3.5 million relates to HM Prison Service. These figures were provided in a written answer by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1655W. Data for April 2008 to March 2009 are expected at 31 October 2009.

Agency Staff

The final audited figures for agency staff expenditure will be reported in the Ministry's 2008-09 resource accounts which are expected to be laid before Parliament by the summer recess. Draft figures are shown as follows:

	Draft figures (£)
Ministry of Justice HQ	38,042,261
HM Courts Service	34,912,450
Tribunals Service	8,945,912
Office of the Public Guardian	3,190,000
National Offenders Management Service	27,250,000
Total	112,340,623

This expenditure represents a reduction of 18 per cent. compared to the figure reported in 2007-08.

As part of the Ministry of Justice's ongoing Performance and Efficiency programme to deliver £1 billion of savings to March 2011 we are looking at ways to reduce people costs, including cutting back on interim and contract staff. However, in specific circumstances consultancy support offers MOJ a fast and flexible way of obtaining skills and experience that are not available in house. All contracts, in such cases, are let with best value for money in mind and follow established Office of Government Commerce frameworks.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each tender document relating to his Department's consultation on *(a)* the rights and responsibilities Green Paper and *(b)* a British statement of values. [283524]

Mr. Wills: Tender documents relating to the consultations on values, rights and responsibilities cannot be placed in the Library as this could prejudice commercial interests.

Land Registry

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of deeds and documents held by the Land Registry. [283528]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registry estimates that the number of documents it holds is in excess of 122 million (with an estimated 747 million pages). This figure includes documents held in both paper and electronic form.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many original deeds and documents have been destroyed by the Land Registry since 28 February 2009. [283530]

Mr. Wills: In accordance with Rules 203 and 204 of the Land Registration Rules 2003 the Land Registry has destroyed approximately 5.5 million deeds and documents since 28 February 2009. The destruction of these documents results from a decision to store records electronically rather than physically. The Land Registry holds a large number of documents in electronic format. This has allowed the creation of a service for professional customers to view and download these documents online, and speeded up the services available to the general public.

Register related documents are managed with the electronic register and are within the scope of the Land Registry's IT security measures, which are externally accredited. This includes a requirement that the Land Registry:

Systematically examines its information security risks, taking account of the threats, vulnerabilities and impacts;

Designs and implements a coherent and comprehensive suite of information security controls and/or other forms of risk treatment (such as risk avoidance or risk transfer) to address those risks that it deems unacceptable; and

Adopts an overarching management process to ensure that the information security controls continue to meet its information security needs on a continuing basis.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of land and property registrations overseen by the Land Registry took place solely by electronic means in each year since 2003. [283531]

Mr. Wills: The information prior to September 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I will, however, be able to provide the number of electronic applications received by Land Registry since 2007. I will write to the hon. Member with this information and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of original records which will be destroyed by the Land Registry in 2009-10. [283532]

Mr. Wills: No estimate has been made of the number of original records that will be destroyed by the Land Registry in 2009-10. Figures are available for documents destroyed to date in 2009-10 and are as follows:

April 2009: 349,375

May 2009: 334,008

June 2009: 401,739

The destruction of these documents results from a decision to store records electronically rather than physically. The Land Registry holds a large number of documents in electronic format. This has allowed the creation of a service for professional customers to view and download these documents online and has speeded up the services available to the general public.

Register-related documents are managed with the electronic register and are within the scope of the Land Registry's IT security measures, which are externally accredited. This includes a requirement that the Land Registry:

> Systematically examines its information security risks, taking account of the threats, vulnerabilities and impacts;
>
> Designs and implements a coherent and comprehensive suite of information security controls and/or other forms of risk treatment (such as risk avoidance or risk transfer) to address those risks that it deems unacceptable; and
>
> Adopts an overarching management process to ensure that the information security controls continue to meet its information security needs on a continuing basis.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of deeds and documents held by the Land Registry of which there is no paper original. [283533]

Mr. Wills: As of 1 July 2009 the Land Registry estimates that it holds 31,375,788 documents in electronic format (where there is no paper original). This figure includes the full range of documents and is not limited to traditional legal deeds such as transfer, leases and conveyances. Also included are other documents that are lodged by customers in support of their applications.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests were received by the Land Registry between 13 October 2003 and 12 October 2008 for the return of original documents on which entry is or was founded. [283534]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registry estimates that it received 6,285 applications for the return of documents between 13 October 2003 and 12 October 2008. As a result some 2,916 original documents were returned to applicants. The remainder of requests were either for documents that had already been returned, were not held by Land Registry or were not available for statutory reasons.

Legal Services Commission

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will instruct the Legal Services Commission to evaluate the effect of best value tendering on the ability of law firms to deliver legally-aided criminal defence services; [284249]

(2) whether his Department has made an estimate of the effect on expenditure on legal aid which would result from the implementation of the Best Value Tendering for Criminal Defence Service Contracts models in 2010; [284251]

(3) if he will instruct the Legal Services Commission to evaluate the effect of best value tendering on the quality of legally-aided criminal defence services; [284252]

(4) if he will instruct the Legal Services Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of its tender process for the best value tendering exercise. [284253]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently analysing responses to its consultation on best value tendering (BVT) which closed on 19 June. It will issue a response in the next few weeks. The consultation set out the LSC's intention to pilot BVT in Greater Manchester and Avon and Somerset and to evaluate the pilot tender exercise before making any decisions on wider rollout across England and Wales.

The LSC's consultation stated that any evaluation of the pilot tender exercise would address areas such as the operation of the tender mechanism; the prices and level of supply obtained; changes in the shape of the market; the ability of firms to adjust structures, where necessary to deliver work under the new contract; and an equalities impact assessment of the tender outcome.

Best value tendering has the potential to achieve savings in areas where there is strong competition by setting the local market price for services and allowing firms to realise efficiency savings. However, it is not possible to predict in advance the outcome of a competitive process and we recognise that prices may rise in some areas. Piloting the proposals will give us a much better understanding of the overall financial impact.

A final impact assessment will be published alongside the LSC's response to the consultation, which will fully assess the impact of any decisions on implementing these proposals.

Ministers: Pensions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the proposed Bill on constitutional renewal will include provisions relating to the *(a)* Prime Minister's, *(b)* Lord Chancellor's and *(c)* Speaker's pension. [279878]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Government remain committed to legislating in this area as soon as parliamentary time allows. The Government are currently considering the content of the Constitutional Renewal Bill and will make an announcement in due course.

Miscarriages of Justice

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many miscarriage of justice claims at the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are unsettled; and in which year each claim or group of claims commenced. [283693]

Claire Ward: All payments for compensation following miscarriages of justice are now considered under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Ministers decide whether an applicant is eligible for compensation and, if eligibility is confirmed, the independent assessor decides on the amount to be paid. The assessor bases his decision on submissions by or on behalf of the applicant as to financial and other losses suffered as a result of the miscarriage of justice. This is often a complex and time-consuming process.

There are currently 62 applicants in relation to whom eligibility has been confirmed under section 133 (or under the discretionary compensation scheme abolished in 2006), but where a final payment has yet to be made. The table indicates the year in which eligibility was confirmed and the number of successful applicants involved in each.

Year eligibility was confirmed	*Number of successful applicants*
1992	1
1993	1
1998	2
1999	1
2000	3
2001	5
2002	1
2003	5
2004	8
2005	11
2006	12
2007	7
2008	3
2009	2

Of these, 26 have still to make final submissions on the value of their claim and 13 are with the assessor for consideration of a final award. In 14 cases the assessor has considered the final submission and has either issued an assessment and is awaiting formal acceptance, or has requested further information before he can make a final award. In the remaining nine cases final submissions have recently been made by the applicants and the papers will go to the assessor for consideration of a final award once they have been collated by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

It is open to any applicant who has had eligibility for compensation confirmed to ask the assessor for an interim payment.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure the National Offender Management Service incurred on prison-based offender behaviour programmes *(a)* in total and *(b)* per participant in 2008-09. [284230]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the delivery of prison-based offender behaviour programmes is part of establishment baselines, therefore it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) offers a range of programmes to meet different needs and risks of offending. The cost of delivery varies across programmes and by prison establishment, depending on factors such as the nature, length and intensity of the programmes, volume of delivery and the existing infrastructure.

The estimated cost per individual completing programmes in prison is between £1,000 to £10,000. The small number of completions for the more intensive programmes for serious violent offenders cost more to deliver.

NOMS is currently undertaking a specifications, benchmarking and costings exercise which will provide more accurate costings of the interventions delivered.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of redirecting funding from offender behaviour programmes towards activities which strengthen offenders' family relationships and employment skills as a means of reducing re-offending; and if he will make a statement. [284229]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) delivers a broad range of interventions to address the particular risks and needs of offenders.

There are a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes addressing thinking skills, anger management, domestic and other types of violent crime as well as sexual offending. A range of interventions is available for offenders with an alcohol or drug problem. These can contribute to strengthening relationships and employment.

Other activities across prison and probation such as training, education, work, non accredited courses, specialist support and resettlement also have a significant part to play.

The responsibility for the commissioning of services now rests with the Directors of Offender Management (DOM). It is for them to commission services that meet the needs of offenders and the requirements of sentencers in their area. Decisions over the level and allocation of funding are therefore matters for the DOM, and it is for them to decide if they wish to reallocate resources to strengthen family relationships and employment skills.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences related to possession of a knife in each police force area in the East of England in each of the last 10 years. [283416]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts of

> "having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises"

in the East of England, broken down by police force area, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

We are determined to get knives off our streets. Through the Tackling Knives Action Programme we are working intensively in fifteen areas affected by knife crime to reduce the number of knives on the streets, as well as with the British Transport police.

In March 2009 we announced an extra £5 million to tackle knife crime and increase targeted police action to tackle a minority of young people who commit serious violence, regardless of the weapon involved.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of "having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises", in the East of England region, broken down by police force area, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bedfordshire	36	23	46	32	40	57	68	78	61	62
Cambridgeshire	35	31	15	27	46	34	62	57	67	54

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of "having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises", in the East of England region, broken down by police force area, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Essex	97	96	100	99	105	146	201	176	175	160
Hertfordshire	29	28	27	25	53	83	84	92	84	68
Norfolk	50	46	36	41	59	69	70	69	62	78
Suffolk	22	26	30	31	61	52	68	69	106	89
East of England	209	250	246	235	362	441	553	541	555	511

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received on the implications for his policy on the payment of compensation for pleural plaques of the Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) (Scotland) Act 2009; and if he will make a statement. [284311]

Bridget Prentice: No reports have been received on this issue.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 776W, on prisons, what the standard infrastructural, physical and security criteria are for prison buildings that are designated for use by category *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C prisoners. [283103]

Maria Eagle: Because of the wide variety of properties that make up the prison estate, there are no standard infrastructural or physical build specifications for the different security categories of prisons. Instead, there are physical and special security guides. For security reasons these are not publicly available documents. By applying these we can ensure that all prisons meet the required standard of physical security appropriate to the category of prisoner held.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 734-5WS, on prison accommodation, how many category *(a)* C and *(b)* D prisoners are held in prisons designated for use by category B prisoners; and what percentage of category (i) A and (ii) B prisoners are held in prisons designated for use by category A prisoners. [283162]

Maria Eagle: All prisoners are placed in the lowest security category consistent with the needs of security and control. Categorisation involves an assessment of the risk of escape or abscond and the potential risk of harm to the public. Prisoners may be held in a prison of a higher security category for operational reasons, although the numbers of such prisoners must be limited by agreement between senior managers.

The information necessary to give a comprehensive answer to the questions about the numbers of category C and D prisoners who are detained in prisons designated for category B prisoners, and the percentage of category A and B prisoners held in category A prisons is not held centrally and obtaining it would involve disproportionate cost.

Prisoners Release

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people imprisoned for *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* sexual violence offences have been released under the end of custody licence scheme; and how many of each category have committed similar offences since their release. [283605]

Mr. Straw: Domestic violence is not a specific offence. Offenders who commit domestic violence are charged with one of the offences of assault. Prisoners serving a sentence for a serious violent offence are ineligible for release on the end of custody licence (ECL). It would not be possible to identify the number of prisoners convicted of domestic violence related offences without examining individual case files and therefore breaching cost limits.

Sexual violence is not a specific offence. Prisoners who are subject to the registration requirements of the Sex Offenders Act 1997/Sexual Offences Act 2003 are ineligible for release on ECL.

The number of releases and recalls on end of custody licence (ECL) has been published monthly since July 2007 on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The most recent data was published on 30 June 2009. The number of releases by all offence groups since the scheme began is in the following table:

ECL releases by offence group	*29 June 2007 to 31 May 2009*
Violence against the person	11,696
Sexual offences	9
Robbery	1,452
Burglary	5,465
Theft and handling	13,450
Fraud and forgery	1,204
Drug offences	2,583
Motoring offences	6,739
Other offences	16,156
Offence not recorded	1,027

Of the nine prisoners released on ECL having served a sentence for a sexual offence, six were eligible for release whilst the other three were released in error. None of these nine prisoners re-offended while on the period of ECL.

For all other prisoners released on ECL, it is not possible to establish how many of each category has committed similar offences since their release without checking individual prisoner and police records. This would exceed cost limits.

The monthly ECL report shows figures for recalls by reason. Of the 2,022 prisoners recalled, 874 have been recalled for alleged re-offending.

More generally, figures on re-offending are published annually on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingof adults.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffending juveniles.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications//local-adult-reoffending. htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Swine Flu

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been diagnosed with swine flu to date. [284033]

Maria Eagle: Two, as of 1 July. Contingency plans are in place to prepare for pandemic flu in prisons, in order to minimise the transmission of infection and ensure that prisoners and staff receive appropriate medical care and advice. Guidance has been provided to all prisons, and NOMS is working closely with the Department of Health and with the NHS at national, regional and local level to ensure that our response is robust and closely aligned with key partners.

Probation Officers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of training a probation officer. [282570]

Mr. Straw: The average cost of training a probation officer is approximately £74,000. This amount covers the cost of the two-year training programme, salary and related costs.

Probation Officers: Redundancy

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received from local probation areas and trusts on levels of planned redundancies to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [283088]

Maria Eagle: There has been a sustained increase in probation service funding since 1997. Total funding for probation rose by 70 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2007, and the number of staff employed by the probation service over the same period rose by 7,000, or almost 50 per cent. This includes an increase of 54 per cent. of frontline staff; probation officers, senior probation officers, and probation service officers.

The chief operating officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) submitted staffing projections for 2009-10 and 2010-11 from all probation areas and trusts to Ministers in March this year. These were unverified estimates for internal management purposes only.

Following these estimates, Ministers have made clear their commitment to ensuring that front-line redundancies are avoided wherever possible. Directors of Offender Management are ensuring that probation areas focus their savings on reducing management layers, streamlining support services and cutting bureaucracy, in order to minimise the impact of budget reductions on frontline staff.

However, responsibility for staffing levels ultimately lies with each probation board or trust as they are the employers of probation staff. It is for them to take the action necessary at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

Probation: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high risk *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders in each age group there were in Essex probation area in each of the last five years. [283515]

Maria Eagle: The number of male and female offenders assessed as high risk of causing harm, through the Offender Assessment System supervised by Essex probation area by age group is outlined as follows:

	31 March each year			
	2009	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Male	690	673	468	303
Female	27	20	20	14
Total	717	693	488	317
As proportion of case load (percentage)	10.5	10.1	7.8	5.8

	31 March each year			
	2009	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Under 21	46	47	32	16
21-29	203	192	128	78
30-39	199	207	152	109
40-49	155	144	102	69
50-59	66	55	44	27
60-69	37	34	23	13
Over 70	11	14	7	5
Total	717	693	488	317

Reoffenders: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate for offenders in *(a)* Cambridgeshire probation area and *(b)* Peterborough probation area was in each of the last 10 years. [283424]

Maria Eagle: The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation case load at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the case load at any one time.

The Cambridgeshire probation area has two local authorities (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). The reoffending rate for both the probation area and the local authorities is shown as follows.

Local reoffending rates for Cambridgeshire: January-December 2008

	Number of offenders	*Actual reoffending rate (percentage)*
Cambridgeshire probation area	9,389	11.01
Cambridgeshire local authority	5,724	9.99
Peterborough local authority	3,412	11.96

It is not always possible to assign a local authority to an offender so the totals for the local authorities do not sum to the number of reoffenders in the probation area.

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area or local authority are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007-30 September 2008.

Further details on local adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii-pdf

Youth Custody

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile offenders arrived at their place of detention for the first time after 10 pm on the day of admission in each of the last five years. [283341]

Maria Eagle: Information on those juveniles who arrived after 10 pm in each establishment over the last five years is not available. To provide this information would involve a manual check of each individual Prison Escort Record at a disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 7 July 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1496W, on Afghanistan: females, what reports he has received on the *(a)* composition, *(b)* mandate and *(c)* method of operation of the drafting committee established by the Afghan Ministry of Justice to re-examine certain provisions of the Shi'a Family Law; and if he will make a statement. [282132]

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on progress in the review of Shi'a Family Law in Afghanistan ordered by President Karzai; what discussions he has had with the government of Afghanistan on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [282820]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We, along with other international partners, made our concerns about the Shi'a Personal Status Law clear to the Afghan Government at a senior level. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the issue with President Karzai. We welcomed President Karzai's announcement on 27 April 2009 that the law would be changed to bring it in line with the Afghan Constitution, which guarantees equal rights for women, and the international treaties to which Afghanistan is a party.

On 20 June 2009, the Minister of Justice met with female representatives of the Afghan Parliament and civil society and told them that his Ministry has now amended the Law. The amendments were made following written recommendations by Afghan civil society (the Afghan Women's Network), Katib university and moderate Ulema (religious scholars).

We understand the amendments made by the Afghan Ministry of Justice have added around 60 articles and removed around 10 from the Law. Language was also added to clarify the meaning of certain articles. The amended draft was viewed by the above female representatives as broadly 'pro women', and contentious articles, including the provision appearing to legalise rape, had been removed. The Law is also being reviewed by the Supreme Court.

President Karzai has indicated that the Law will next be sent back to the Afghan Parliament for approval (in time for the new session of Parliament, beginning 20 July 2009).

The Law continues to cause controversy on both sides—some religiously conservative Ulema are still lobbying the President to pass the original draft, parts of which the international community and many Afghans deemed unacceptable. The outcome is still uncertain, therefore we, along with our international partners and Afghan civil society, will continue to follow the passage of the Law closely. We will lobby the Afghan Government whenever appropriate, to help ensure the final Law respects women's rights and does not undo progress made since 2001.

Africa: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on piracy in the waters around the Horn of Africa. [283315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Councils in Brussels on 15 June 2009 where he and his EU counterparts discussed Operation Atalanta and piracy off the coast of Somalia as part of the agenda.

The Foreign Secretary also attended a meeting of the G8 Foreign Ministers in Trieste on 26 June 2009. They discussed piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the eastern coast of Somalia along with other pressing issues.

The UK continues to take a leading role in activities to counter piracy. As part of the international contact group on piracy off the coast of Somalia we chair a working group on regional capability and international co-ordination. This will next meet in London at the International Maritime Organisation Headquarters on 10 July 2009.

British Council: Meetings

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has met representatives of the British Council in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [283939]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly meets British Council representatives in the UK and when travelling overseas. In the last 12 months, he has met British Council representatives on 10 occasions in the UK and on 11 occasions when travelling overseas, which included meetings in Kosovo, India, Iraq, Greece, Turkey and Pakistan.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Thai Government on the repatriation of Karen civilians to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [283947]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Bangkok most recently raised the issue of refugees on the Thailand-Burma border with the Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 July 2009. Our embassy staff have also been in contact with the Thai Ministry of the Interior, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on the border, about the welfare and living conditions of those recently arrived from eastern Burma, and the humanitarian assistance they are receiving. This assistance, provided by the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR and NGOs, includes food, plastic sheeting for shelter, blankets, bed-nets and medical care.

Burma: International Assistance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with aid agencies on securing Burmese visas for their workers; and if he will make a statement. [283949]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with aid agencies working in Burma, during which issues relating to Burmese visas are discussed. We will continue to monitor the situation. The Burmese regime are aware of our concerns that unfettered access should be allowed to continue for humanitarian agencies operating in Burma.

Colombia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 70W, on Colombia: foreign relations, if he will have discussions with his Colombian counterpart on bilateral relations and broader global issues. [284460]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no such meetings scheduled. However, as stated in the previous answer referred to, our ambassador in Bogota maintains regular contact with senior Colombian Government officials, including the Foreign Minister, to discuss bilateral relations and broader global issues.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 70W, on Colombia: foreign relations, whether the British Ambassador in Bogota has met senior Colombian Government officials to discuss the matter of political prisoners being held in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [284750]

Chris Bryant: As stated in the previous answer referred to, our ambassador in Bogota maintains regular contact with senior Colombian Government officials, including the Foreign Minister, to discuss bilateral relations and broader global issues. In such meetings, the ambassador regularly raises human rights issues, most recently with the Vice President on 5 July 2009, where he discussed, among other issues, allegations that judicial proceedings are used against individuals for political purposes.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284906]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), together with its agencies and posts overseas, manages a large number of databases of varying size and complexity. Some hold information on members of the public gathered in support of a wide range of activities including consular services. To collect and collate information on when each of these databases became operational could be done only at disproportionate cost.

All personal information held on FCO databases is strictly protected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Departmental Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for his Department's *(a)* policy planning staff and *(b)* research analysts was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [282660]

Chris Bryant: In financial year 2008-09, the budgets were as follows:

	Budget (£000)
Policy Planning staff	1,903
Research Analysts	4,086

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the roles and responsibilities are of each Minister in his Department. [284600]

Chris Bryant: The roles and responsibilities of each Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are as follows:

Right hon. David Miliband MP: Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Overall responsibility for the work of the Office
Strategy and Policy Planning
Communications
Honours
Whitehall Liaison Department

Right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown: Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, attending Cabinet

Afghanistan and South Asia
Africa
United Nations
Human Rights
Global Issues
Commonwealth
Ministerial Oversight for FCO Services
Ivan Lewis' business, plus Public Diplomacy (including British Council and BBC World Service) in the Lords

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: Minister of State (Europe)

European Union
Europe, including Balkans, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova
Russia, South Caucasus, Central Asia
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Council of Europe
FCO finance
Chris Bryant's business in the Lords (except Public Diplomacy)

Ivan Lewis MP: Minister of State

Middle East
Counter Terrorism

Counter Proliferation
South East Asia and Far East
North America
Middle East and North Africa
Drugs and International Crime
Migration
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
Leads on Lord Malloch-Brown's business in the Commons

Chris Bryant MP: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Overseas Territories
South America
Caribbean and Central America
Australasia and Pacific
Consular policy
Olympics
Shanghai Expo 2010
Protocol
HR and Diversity
Public Diplomacy, including British Council and BBC World Service
Leads on Baroness Kinnock's business in the Commons, including Europe

Lord Mervyn Davies of Abersoch CBE: Minister for Trade and Investment

UK Trade and Investment (joint Minister with Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Baroness Taylor of Bolton: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Liaison with MOD on security and defence policy issues (joint with Ministry of Defence)

This information is publicly available on the FCO website:

ixhttp://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/how-we-are-organised/ministers/

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284971]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not seconded any members of staff to offices of Members of any political party. We have no record of staff who have taken a career break or unpaid leave to work in such offices.

East Timor: Politics and Government

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist restorative justice and truth and reconciliation initiatives in East Timor; and if he will make a statement. [283950]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 1999, we have actively supported the development of East Timor and played a part in ensuring that appropriate assistance was provided by the UN. The UN Mission in East Timor continues to provide peacekeeping support and capacity building to the East Timorese Government and Administration. The UK helps to fund this through our assessed contributions to the UN, and we will continue to offer strong support for multilateral efforts in East Timor. Additionally, the EU is assisting East Timor in promoting its justice sector and reinforcing the rule of law. The UK contributes both technical and financial assistance to the EU programmes in East Timor, currently worth around 18 million euros.

We believe it is for the Governments of Indonesia and East Timor to consider how best to deal with their past history, reflecting the concerns of their citizens. We have raised the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) and the Commission on Truth and Friendship (CTF) with East Timor and expressed the UK's view that it was important for the East Timorese parliament to debate the reports of the CTF and the CAVR as part of the process of establishing accountability. We hope that the adoption of the CTF report by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia and President Ramos Horta of East Timor will be a step forward in cementing the relationship between the two Governments and enabling them to move forward in peaceful co-operation.

Egypt: British Nationality

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British *(a)* nationals and *(b)* residents have been detained by the Egyptian authorities on suspicion or charge of terrorist activities since 2000. [283865]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* From consular records we are aware of one case since 2000 of a British national who has been detained by the Egyptian authorities in which suspicion of terrorist activities has been given as the reason. We are aware of no cases in this period of British nationals having been charged in Egypt with terrorist activities.

We are also aware of a case of a British national who was detained on suspicion of involvement in extremist-related activity. There were three cases of British nationals who were detained and found guilty of their involvement with an organisation which is illegal in Egypt. A fourth British national was briefly held and released on the same grounds. Additionally, there were a small number of British nationals during this period who were detained on arrival at Cairo airport and returned to the UK, with no formal reason given.

Consular officials find out about the detention of British nationals overseas in various ways. The local authorities should inform us when they detain a British national. However, this does not always happen, particularly in the case of dual nationals in their country of other nationality. In many cases, consular officials will find out about a detention from the family, friends or the media. For these reasons, our records of detentions may not be definitive.

We do not provide consular assistance to non-national UK residents, and would not expect to be notified by the Egyptian authorities of their arrest. We cannot therefore give a figure for the number of British residents arrested on suspicion or charge of terrorist activities during this period.

Gilad Shalit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the International Red Cross on *(a)* the imprisonment of Gilad Shalit by Hamas and *(b)* the refusal of Hamas to allow Gilad Shalit Red Cross (ICRC) visits; and if he will make a statement. [283704]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Both British Ministers and our ambassador in Israel have been in contact with Gilad Shalit's family throughout his captivity and emphasized our support for Gilad's immediate release.

On 25 June 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary repeated the UK's call to Hamas for Gilad Shalit's immediate, unconditional, and safe release.

Last September, our ambassador helped to deliver over 2,000 Jewish new year cards for Gilad to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as part of a campaign organised by the UK Jewish community. We share the Shalit family's dismay at Hamas's refusal to allow the ICRC access to Gilad. We will continue to pursue this issue both privately and publicly.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Arab governments on *(a)* the imprisonment of Gilad Shalit by Hamas and *(b)* the refusal of Hamas to allow him Red Cross visits; and if he will make a statement. [283705]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK will continue to call for the immediate release of Gilad Shalit by Hamas. The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt.

Both Ministers and our ambassador in Tel Aviv have had contact with Gilad Shalit's family throughout his captivity and emphasized our support. On 25 June 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary repeated the UK's call for Gilad Shalit's immediate, unconditional, and safe release. We share the Shalit family's dismay at Hamas's refusal to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to Gilad.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in relation to the imprisonment of Gilad Shalit by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [283710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns at the UN Security Council meeting on 11 May 2009.

Both Ministers and our ambassador in Israel have had contact with Gilad's family throughout his captivity and emphasized our support. On 25 June, the Foreign Secretary repeated the UK's call for Gilad Shalit's immediate, unconditional, and safe release. We share the Shalit family's dismay at Hamas's refusal to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to Gilad.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that aid provided by his Department is not misappropriated by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [283711]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are monitoring the situation closely. It is imperative that aid reach the people in Gaza who need it. We are in contact with all our partners, including the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), to make sure that Government funding is being used appropriately and that the relief items are getting to those who need them.

There are well developed international mechanisms for the delivery of aid in Gaza, principally UNRWA and the World Food Programme. We urge aid agencies to ensure that they maintain the greatest possible distance from Hamas.

India: Ethnic Groups

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Indian Government on the rights and interests of the Dongria Kondh tribe of Orissa; and if he will make a statement. [283951]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not discussed the rights and interests of the Dongria Kondh tribe with the Indian Government. We have discussed the general rights and entitlements of tribal groups with Government of Orissa officials, under the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme funded by the Department for International Development.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of the state of UK relations with Iran is; and if he will make a statement. [284946]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made clear that the UK is committed to a positive and constructive bilateral relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and one that is based on mutual respect. But for that relationship to work, Iran's leaders must take seriously the international community's concerns about recent events, and about Iran's nuclear programme.

We have made very clear our concern at the Iranian authorities' response to post-election demonstrations, and at the expulsion of international journalists from Iran. The arrest of several locally-employed Iranian members of our embassy staff was extremely concerning. Our efforts are fully focused on securing the release of the one still-detained staff member.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the Kenyan Government's political reform programme; and if he will make a statement. [283855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has provided support to the Kenyan Government's political reform programme through its contribution to the Annan process and the National Accord. We have provided £1.4 million (£200,000 in 2007-08 and £1.2 million in 2008-09). Additional support has been provided to civil society organisations to assist communities to reconcile and engage in the peace process. In the past two financial years, civil society support amounted to £1.2 million.

All support has jointly been managed by the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme (ACPP).

We continue to urge Kenya's leaders to work together to ensure that the key reforms needed in Kenya are made. We will continue to offer our full support to Kofi Annan and his leadership role in the reform process.

North Korea

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken in relation to the human rights situation in North Korea in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [283948]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government take the human rights situation in North Korea extremely seriously. We are deeply concerned by continuing reports of serious, widespread and systematic human rights abuses there. We raise this issue with the North Korean Government at every appropriate opportunity. Our ambassador in Pyongyang raised our concerns most recently in February 2009 during the visit to North Korea by Lord Alton and Baroness Cox with the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Speaker of the North Korean Parliament. He emphasised the importance of dialogue on human rights and urged North Korea to accept a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur. However the North Korean Government refuse to engage.

With EU Partners we sponsored annual resolutions on North Korea human rights at the UN General Assembly (in December 2008), and at the UN Human Rights Council (in March 2009). The latter includes the mandate for the UN Special Rapporteur on North Korea Human Rights, whose work in evidence gathering we strongly support.

We have worked closely with a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) over the past year. We sponsored an NGO report on children's rights in North Korea ahead of the February 2009 periodic report by the UN Committee on the Rights of Child on North Korea. We also supported the participation of a leading UK NGO at an international conference on North Korean Human Rights in Canberra in March. We are now working with NGOs and international partners to prepare for the Universal Periodic Review of North Korea's human rights record which is scheduled to take place at the UN Human Rights Council session in December 2009. Locally, our embassy in Pyongyang has given support to the project work of Handicap International in the DPRK which is designed to help improve the rights of the disabled there, and is looking at ways to increase that activity.

Palestinians

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of Palestinian citizens previously living in Gaza who have taken refuge inside Israel; and if he will make a statement. [283653]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received reports on the number of Palestinian citizens previously living in Gaza who have taken refuge inside Israel.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on demolitions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [283727]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The demolition of houses in East Jerusalem is, with very few exceptions, illegal under international law. It also threatens the viability of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear the UK's concerns about the demolition of Palestinian buildings in East Jerusalem during his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009 and it was also raised during the EU Foreign Ministers' meeting on 15 June 2009.

The Foreign Secretary also continues to call on Israel to freeze settlement construction, including in East Jerusalem. We will continue to raise these issues as a high priority with Israel both privately and publicly; the Foreign Secretary last did so in his conversation with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 1 July 2009.

Palestinians: Borders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of tunnels between Egypt and Gaza; what steps he is taking to assist the Government of Egypt to prevent the flow of weapons through the Rafah border crossing into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [283715]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With the number of tunnels discovered changing on a regular basis we are unable to provide a definitive figure.

The UK continues to work closely with the EU, US and regional partners to establish how best our expertise can be used to help to prevent the flow of weapons into Gaza, including through tunnels. We have attended meetings in Copenhagen and Ottawa and hosted one in London.

Palestinians: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the establishment of clinics by the Government of Israel at the Erez crossing on the Gaza border; and if he will make a statement. [283713]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of the Erez clinic which opened on 18 January 2009 and closed on 28 January 2009. We understand that it treated five Palestinians injured in the conflict.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the alleged refusal of Hamas to allow Palestinian citizens in Gaza to use clinics set up by Israel; and if he will make a statement. [283714]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received any such report.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of Gaza residents who have entered Israel for medical and humanitarian reasons via the Erez crossing; what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [283716]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received reports on the number of people entering Israel for medical and humanitarian reasons via the Erez crossing. However, Israel needs to reduce restrictions on the movement of people in and out of Gaza.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed his concerns regarding the restrictions at the Gaza crossings to the Israeli Foreign Minister on 1 July 2009. He pressed Israel to allow in humanitarian aid, reconstruction materials, and trade goods, as well as the legitimate flow of people.

Spirit of Humanity

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the interception of the vessel Spirit of Humanity and the detention of the UK citizens on board. [284786]

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken in response to the Israeli navy boarding the Gaza ship Spirit of Humanity; and if he will make a statement. [284784]

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the interception by the Israeli navy of the ship Spirit of Humanity; and if he will make a statement. [284654]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I can confirm the Israeli navy boarded the vessel "Spirit of Humanity" on 30 June 2009. The Israeli navy took control of the vessel and diverted it to Ashdod port in Israel, where all those on board, including six British nationals, were handed over to Israeli immigration officials. British consular officials have had good access to the British detainees and confirm that they are in good health and being treated well.

When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman on 1 July 2009, he raised the issue with him and asked for clarification of whether the "Spirit of Humanity" was intercepted in international waters. We will continue to press the Israeli Government for clarification.

Trident

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his Department's evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry into Global Security: Non-Proliferation, HC 222, Ev 118, what assessment he has made of the merits of suspending the Trident replacement programme in the context of negotiations to reduce warhead numbers; and if he will make a statement. [284969]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated on 17 March 2009, as soon as it becomes useful for our nuclear arsenal to be included in broader multilateral negotiations, Britain stands ready to participate and to act. A decision now not to renew our Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) submarine fleet would pre-empt any such negotiation, by committing a future Government to unilateral disarmament at the end of the current fleet's lifespan, regardless of the strategic circumstances at that time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the accuracy of mapping of land for the purposes of 2010 single farm payments. [284787]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is in the process of updating land information used to support the single payment scheme (SPS) and other direct support schemes. A programme of work is under way to deliver a more effective and up-to-date geographic information system, as required under EU Regulation.

The programme of work includes a mapping update project which will gain agreement from farmers to updated maps of their land parcels and ensure the mapping information held by RPA to support the SPS and direct support schemes reflects the most up to date actual land and features on the ground. For the first time permanent features ineligible for support under the SPS are included. There are more than 2 million land parcels in England.

Completion of the work this year will enable the updated maps to be used for next year. The programme will also provide the potential for future new services, such as the ability to view maps online.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received in respect of his Department's consultation on proposals to remove strict liability from animal owners under the Animals Act 1971; and if he will make a statement. [284683]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has received 33 responses from a wide range of respondents, including private individuals, large national organisations, small local or regional groups, independent equine businesses, insurance companies and legal firms. We are now considering these detailed responses and will publish a summary of responses shortly.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new slaughter welfare rules he proposes to introduce; and what estimate he has made of the cost of administering such rules in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [284783]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 22 June the EU Council of Ministers reached political agreement on the final text of a Council regulation on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter. The regulation is expected to apply from 1 January 2013. It will replace the current directive 93/119 which the European Commission considers out of date. The regulation updates the existing regulatory framework to take account of technological improvements and opinions by the European Food Safety Authority and the World Health Organisation.

The regulation permits the use of national rules to maintain existing levels of welfare protection where these exceed those in the regulation. We would wish to maintain existing welfare standards and will be considering how national rules can be used to achieve this objective. Any changes to domestic legislation will be subject to a formal public consultation.

An initial estimate of the costs associated with the initial Commission proposal was published on the DEFRA website on 27 January 2009. Revised estimates are currently being prepared to reflect the changes made in the final text. These will be made available later in the year when the final text of the regulation is published. However, we have no plans to publish local or regional cost estimates.

Animals: Quarantine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals of each species were kept in quarantine facilities operated by his Department in 2008. [284098]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following species arrived in the UK in 2008 and went into quarantine. This does not include animals which entered into quarantine at the end of 2007 and were released in 2008.

Species	*Number in quarantine*
Armadillos	2
Baboons	2
Bats	12
Beavers	38
Binturongs	1
Cats	1.169
Cheetahs	[illegible]
Chinchillas	2
Dogs	2,110
Foxes	4
Ferrets	2
Fossas	2
Fruit bats	10
Guinea pigs	5
Lemurs	4
Leopards	5
Lions	3
Lynxes	1
Mice	6
Ocelots	1
Otters	4
Primates	2,209
Pumas	4
Rabbits	16
Red pandas	1
Sea lions	3
Tenrecs	15
Tigers	5
Wallabies	2
Weasels	8
Wolves	1
Total	5,661

Note:
The figures in the table are taken from Animal Health's bespoke quarantine system.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals in quarantine were vaccinated against rabies while in quarantine in each of the last five years. [284108]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of animals which went into quarantine in the following years (from 1 January until 31 December for each year) and were vaccinated against rabies are as follows:

	Number of animals in quarantine and vaccinated against rabies
2005	1,836
2006	1,938
2007	1,642
2008	1,929
2009	[1]623

[1] Figures from 1 January 2009 until 1 June 2009.

Note:
The figures in the table are taken from Animal Health's bespoke quarantine system.

Only domestic (i.e. pet) cats and dogs are required to be vaccinated against rabies in quarantine unless they have been prepared for the Pet Travel Scheme for early release, in which case they can waive the requirement for rabies vaccination. Other mammals, zoo or research animals do not have to be vaccinated against rabies in quarantine.

These figures do not include animals which, for example, entered the UK (and entered quarantine) at the end of 2004 and were vaccinated, but released from quarantine in 2005.

Bovine Tuberculosis

[illegible]. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle aged *(a)* over 15 months, *(b)* 12 to 15 months, *(c)* nine to 12 months, *(d)* six to nine months and *(e)* 42 days to six months have tested (i) positive and (ii) inconclusive for bovine tuberculosis under pre-movement testing regulations in each year since its introduction. [283009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not compile statistics for pre-movement testing in the format which the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire requests. However, we can provide the number of bovine tuberculosis (TB) positive and inconclusive reactor (IR) cattle identified in England each year since TB pre-movement testing became mandatory in 2006 (table 1); and a breakdown of the reactor and IR animals over 15 months and under 15 months (table 2).

	Reactors	*IRs*
2009 (1 January to 31 March)	67	92
2008 (1 January to 31 December)	391	645
2007 (1 January to 31 December)	373	486
2006 (27 March to 31 December)	278	451

Source:
Animal Health database (30 April 2009)

	1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008	*1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009*
Reactors over 15 months	247	298
Reactors under 15 months (455 days)	125	89
IRs over 15 months	441	576
IRs under 15 months (455 days)	51	61

Source:
Animal Health database (30 April 2008 and 30 April 2009)

The published figures are an underestimate of the impact of the policy and show the minimum benefits. The number of reactors identified does not take into account the benefits of herd owners utilising Government paid surveillance tests as pre-movement tests or the number of IRs identified by pre-movement testing which have ended up as reactors when retested.

Veterinary Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on its review of the training and employment of veterinary nurses. [283641]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is the awarding body for veterinary nurse qualifications. Students achieve NVQ levels 2 and 3 before being awarded their RCVS certificate. The RCVS is currently conducting a survey of veterinary nurses, training practices, training course providers and other interested parties as part of a forthcoming review of its awards.

DEFRA has held no discussions with the RCVS on this issue.

Wildlife: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support is available for his Department's surveillance strategy to guard against the spread of wildlife diseases in 2009-10. [283639]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A total of £1.5 million is allocated to financing activities to guard against the spread of wildlife diseases in 2009-10. This figure includes funding to support a range of activities including surveillance for diseases in wildlife, for example avian influenza in wild birds, contingency planning and disease control for rabies and collection of wild bird population data.

TRANSPORT

A1

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of introducing *(a)* separated junctions at Sandy, Beeston and Biggleswade and *(b)* new bypasses for Sandy and Biggleswade on the A1 between the Black Cat roundabout and the A1(M) at Radwell north of Baldock. [284486]

Chris Mole: The A1 trunk road through Bedfordshire is identified as a road of regional importance. As such the priority to be given for separated junctions at Sandy, Beeston and Biggleswade and new bypasses for Sandy and Biggleswade is initially for the East of England to consider.

In March 2009 the region submitted advice to Government on public spending priorities for transport, housing and regeneration, economic development and skills as part of the refresh of the Regional Funding Advice (known as RFA2). This includes transport priorities in the region through to 2018-19. The Government expect to respond to the region's advice later this year. However, the region did not include these junctions and bypasses in its submitted priorities.

Airports: Regulation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on his proposal to introduce a special administration regime for regulated airports. [283959]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has received 34 representations in response to its proposal to introduce a special administration regime for regulated airports.

Aviation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of retaining policy-making in respect of non-commercial flight crew licensing in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [283509]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport consulted on the proposal to extend the European Aviation Safety Agency's remit to air operations and flight crew licensing, including for non-commercial aviation, in 2006.

The subsequent EC Regulation 216/2008, which came into effect in April 2008, established Community competence for policy-making with regards to flight crew licences. However, in common with all EU member states, the UK has retained competence for policy-making with respect to licences for pilots of aircraft not covered by Regulation 216/2008. These are known as "Annex 2" aircraft and include: microlights, ex-military aircraft and home-built aircraft.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners in Hemel Hempstead received concessionary bus passes in the latest period for which figures are available. [284424]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Hemel Hempstead is part of the Hertfordshire County concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, the Hertfordshire County scheme had issued 141,099 of the new smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Campaign for Better Transport: Government Assistance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department and its agencies have provided to the Campaign for Better Transport in the last five years; and for what projects such funding was allocated. [284151]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has provided the Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) with the following funding in the last five years:

	£000
2004-05	126
2005-06	71
2006-07	193
2007-08	246
2008-09	250

None of the Department's agencies have funded CBT. The funding was provided for the following projects:

National Business Travel Network, (2007-09)

Ground Floor Partners (2004-08)

Car Free Leisure Network (2004-06)

Life Transitions, (2004-05)

Residential Travel Plans Project, (2004-05)

Making School Travel Plans Work, (2004-05)

Cycling: Finance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Peterborough, *(c)* Huntingdonshire and *(d)* the East of England in each of the last five years. [283411]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has awarded cycle training grants as set out in table 1 to the following local authorities in the East of England since we first started awarding grants for National Standard Cycle Training, promoted as Bikeability training in 2006-07. Table 2 provides details of grants made direct to School Sports Partnerships in the East of England.

The Department has made £4 million available to the School Sports Partnerships in 2009-10 in addition to the £5.4 million awarded to over 90 local authorities. School Sports Partnerships will not bid for grant until later in the year but we expect to meet all claims for cycle training grant in full in 2009-10.

Table 1: Local authority

				Grant (£)
East of England	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bedfordshire County Council	—	6,720.00	32,000.00	—
Bedford Borough Council	—	—	—	28,000.00
Central Bedfordshire Borough Council	—	—	—	35,240.00
Cambridge	—	—	—	22,400.00
Colchester	—	—	—	37,360.00
Essex County Council	—	—	10,000.00	26,000.00
Hertfordshire County Council	28,000.00	59,500.00	65,000.00	70,000.00
Leighton Linslade	—	—	—	63,000.00
Luton Borough Council	6,400.00	1,200.00	10,000.00	20,000.00
Southend on Sea Council	—	—	20,160.00	31,104.00
Suffolk County Council	—	—	—	12,000.00
Thurrock Council	—	—	24,000.00	32,000.00

Table 2: School Sports Partnerships

			Grant (£)
East of England	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Colne (Essex)	8,000.00	—	12,800.00
Bury St. Edmunds (Suffolk)	—	9,600.00	—
Sudbury (Suffolk)	—	4,000.00	4,000.00
Biddenham (Bedford)	—	12,000.00	—
Sharnbrook Upper (Bedford)	—	12,000.00	—
Redbourne (Bedford)	—	—	40,000.00
Castlepoint and Rochford (Essex)	—	—	3,000.00
Davenant (Essex)	—	—	25,000.00
Chelmsford (Essex)	—	—	25,000.00
Thurstable (Essex)	—	—	36,000.00
North Norfolk (Norfolk)	—	—	13,800.00
Cliff Park (Norfolk)	—	—	24,000.00

In addition, Cambridge was included in the new Cycling Cities and Towns programme by Cycling England and was awarded £500,000 in 2008-09. Three other towns in the Eastern region also received funding last year from this programme: Colchester £400,000, Leighton-Linslade £567,138 and Southend-on-Sea £399,760.

Departmental Marketing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cheadle of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W, on railways: marketing, for what reason his Department has incurred no advertising expenditure, other than for statutory advertising, since the amalgamation into his Department of the Strategic Rail Authority; and if he will make a statement. [284225]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport uses a wide range of media and events to inform the public about rail policies and programmes. Advertising travel by rail is a matter for the rail industry, which spends substantial sums on advertising.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to travel companies on their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [284371]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport commissioned the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) (before it was absorbed into the Equality and Human Rights Commission) to produce a series of good practice guides for transport providers. The guides were published in 2007; each guide deals with a different transport sector and offers practical advice on good practice in serving disabled customers.

They can now be found on the DRC website archive at:

A Practical Guide for Rail services:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/rail_services.html

A Practical Guide for Taxi and Private Hire Services:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/taxis_and_private_hire.html

A Practical Guide for Breakdown Recovery Operators:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/breakdown_recovery_operators.html

A Practical Guide for Buses and Scheduled Coaches:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/buses_and_scheduled_coaches.html

A Practical Guide for Tour Coach Operators:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/tour_coach_operators.html

A Practical Guide for Vehicle Rental Firms:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/library/publications/services_and_transport/vehicle_rental_firms.html

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) offices, excluding DVLA Swansea, are owned by the Crown. [283689]

Paul Clark: All of the 38 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) local offices outside Swansea are occupied on a leasehold arrangement. While 27 are held under a commercial lease with private landlords, 11 are held with other Government Departments where the ownership of the premises is unknown by DVLA.

Driving: Licensing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the pass rate for passenger carrying vehicle licences was for *(a)* delegated examiners and *(b)* Driving Standards Agency driving examiners in each financial year since 2000-01. [283685]

Paul Clark: The pass rate for candidates taking practical driving tests for passenger carrying vehicles candidates tested by:

(a) driving examiners working for organisations other than the Driving Standards Agency in each financial year since 2000-01 was:

	Bus company	*Fire brigade*	*Police force*	*Percentage Total PCV tests*
2000-01	61.3	92.6	81.4	61.5
2001-02	61.3	100.0	81.9	61.4
2002-03	60.8	96.0	78.7	60.9
2003-04	60.0	84.1	84.6	60.2
2004-05	59.8	85.2	79.5	60.1
2005-06	58.6	88.2	85.3	59.2
2006-07	58.6	83.3	84.3	59.6
2007-08	58.8	83.7	88.9	60.3
2008-09	62.8	90.1	88.9	64.4

(b) examiners working for the Driving Standards Agency in each financial year since 2000-01 was:

	Pass rate (percentage)
2000-01	46
2001-02	45
2002-03	44
2003-04	46
2004-05	46
2005-06	45
2006-07	46
2007-08	50
2008-09	52

Driving: Working Hours

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 290W, on driving: working hours, which categories of privately-owned horsebox are exempt from EU regulations on drivers' hours; and whether drivers of horseboxes are considered commercial or non-commercial drivers. [284940]

Paul Clark: Privately owned horseboxes are exempt from the directly applicable EU drivers' hours rules if they do not exceed 7.5 tonnes and are being used for the non-commercial carriage of goods.

Generally speaking, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) would normally consider that a vehicle not exceeding 7.5 tonnes is being used on a non-commercial basis where it is clear that the carriage of goods (in this case horses) is not with a view to making a profit. But ultimately, of course, it remains for the courts to interpret the law.

Heathrow Airport

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* surface area of and *(b)* number of people resident within the boundaries of the (i) 43-decibel and (ii) 57-decibel contour at Heathrow in each year since 1997; [283957]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people resident within the boundary of the 43 decibel contour around Heathrow airport following the entry into operation of the third runway. [283958]

Paul Clark: As explained in the written answer on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 856-7W, daytime noise from aircraft is not normally assessed below 57 dBA or, for sensitivity analysis, below 54 dBA. Figures for 43 dBA are not therefore available.

Noise contour reports covering Heathrow from 1997 onwards are available on the Department for Transport's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/[illegible]/

High Speed One

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the sale of High Speed One to be completed. [284254]

Chris Mole: The Government expect to substantially complete the financial and operational restructuring of High Speed 1 this summer. Thereafter, the Government's intention is to secure best value in High Speed 1 through a public auction of a long-term concession.

The precise timing of this sale has not yet been decided and will depend on an assessment of market conditions.

London and Continental Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the sale of property associated with London & Continental Rail Ltd to be completed. [284255]

Chris Mole: London and Continental Railways Ltd. hold a wide range of property interests, both those associated with the operation of the High Speed One railway, and associated developments.

Of these, by far the most significant in terms of independent commercial value are the development interests at Stratford and Kings Cross. In each case, London and Continental Railways has entered into separate development arrangements which will provide a long-term interest in the commercial potential of the sites.

No decision has yet been made as to when London and Continental Railways should seek to sell these interests. In part, this will depend on an assessment as to which point in the development project a sale would deliver best return to the taxpayer, versus future risk of continued participation.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he takes to ensure consistency across all regions of the Highways Agency when imposing speed limits on motorways when roadworks are taking place; and if he will make a statement. [284671]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency achieves consistency in setting speed limits at road works on the strategic road network by adhering to the guidance detailed in Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual. Using site specific risk assessment the Traffic Signs Manual addresses the majority of variables to be considered in light of the individual locations and makes clear recommendations for each variable.

National Express East Coast

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the capital value of National Express East Coast Ltd. [284708]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has full visibility of the National Express East Coast management accounts. However, franchise capital values are commercially confidential.

Parking: Fines

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the level of use of automated number plate recognition systems in the levying of parking fines; and what guidance his Department has issued on the proportionate use of traffic-based surveillance cameras. [284152]

Mr. Khan: Camera equipment used by traffic authorities for civil parking enforcement has to be certified by the Secretary of State for Transport. The Department for Transport (DFT) is aware of one authority whose certified system uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to assist the visual identification of vehicles when the evidence is reviewed. Any system that relied solely on ANPR evidence would not comply with the certification criteria.

Guidance for traffic authorities in England on the use of camera technology for civil parking enforcement is set out on pages 55 to 58 of DFT's "Operational Guidance to Local Authorities on Parking Policy and Enforcement", issued in March 2008.

Railway Track

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make an assessment of the feasibility of restoring disused railway lines in England and Wales for use by cyclists and pedestrians. [283864]

Chris Mole: Many disused railway lines have already been transferred to Railway Paths Ltd, which is the commercial arm of the cycling charity SUSTRANS. The charity is developing these routes as cycle paths which are also suitable for pedestrian use.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* operational and *(b)* infrastructure barriers have been identified to linkages between High Speed One and any proposed high speed lines. [284256]

Chris Mole: High Speed Two will report to the Government by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the West Midlands, setting out any necessary options. As part of this work, High Speed Two has been asked to provide advice on the costs and benefits of options for linking with High Speed One.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether funding allocated by his Department is able to be used to settle franchise disputes in the High Court during Control Period Four. [284488]

Chris Mole: Funding allocated by the Department for Transport is able to be used to settle franchise disputes in the High Court during Control Period 4.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if the Secretary of State will make it his policy to monitor the incidence of publication on the internet of video recordings of traffic violations. [281782]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Campbell) on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 168W.

Roads

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in which local authority areas road pricing technology trials are taking place. [284150]

Mr. Khan: The trial is based around existing driving patterns of volunteers recruited by our contractors. Their driving is not restricted to specific local authority boundaries.

Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the rates of wearing *(a)* front and *(b)* rear seat belts among (i) males and (ii) females of each age group in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [283721]

Paul Clark: Annual seat belt wearing surveys undertaken for the Department for Transport include information on seat belt usage rates by seating position, age and gender. The most recent publication, LF2106 (with results at October 2008) reported the relevant wearing rates in table 3. That publication is available free of charge at:

http://www.trl.co.uk/online_store/reports_publications/free_reports/

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on the allocation of revenue from local safety camera partnerships. [283881]

Paul Clark: From April 2007, penalties paid as a result of offences detected by safety enforcement cameras have not been retained by local safety camera partnerships; therefore no currently relevant guidance is issued by the Department.

Transport: Government Assistance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on assistance for major public transport schemes in the East of England in each of the last 10 years. [283413]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has provided the following support for public transport major schemes in the East of England in the last 10 years:

Major public transport schemes: East of England

	Funding (£ million)					
	1999-2004	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Cambridgeshire Guided Busway	—	—	—	15.9	38.0	38.6
Norwich Public Transport Interchange	—	9.8	—	—	—	—
A13 Passenger Transport Corridor (A127-A1159)	—	—	14.5	—	—	—

WALES

Building Britain's Future

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which of the Bills referred to in Annex A of the Building Britain's Future document *(a)* will include Framework Powers for Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and *(b)* will not include Wales in their territorial extent. [283863]

Mr. Hain: The policy content of Bills referred to in the Draft Legislative Programme is in the process of being developed. Discussions will continue between Ministers and officials, including the Welsh Assembly Government.

We will consider requests made by the Welsh Assembly Government for the need for framework powers which must be within the scope of the proposed Bill.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions officials of his Department have had with officials of other Government departments on the contents of Bills referred to in Annex A of the Building Britain's Future document. [283977]

Mr. Hain: Wales Office officials have held, and continue to hold discussions with colleagues from other Government Departments on the implications for Wales of Bills in the Draft Legislative Programme.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the content of Bills referred to in Annex A of the Building Britain's Future document. [283978]

Mr. Hain: My predecessor and I have held, and will continue to hold discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the content of Bills in the Draft Legislative Programme, as was published on 29 June 2009.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284384]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office maintains its own databases to support the administration of correspondence, and of parliamentary questions. These do not contain personal data.

My Department also makes use of two database systems provided and maintained by the Ministry of Justice. One is a document storage system, which contains some personal data and this complies with Government rules on the storage of personal information. The other is a financial system to support our payments, financial management and accounting.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Jo Swinson: To ask the Leader of the House what her estimate is of the annual cost of running the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [284616]

Barbara Keeley: The budget for the Authority has not been finalised but will be made public as soon as possible.

Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the schedule for the establishment of a Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [284652]

Barbara Keeley: Having consulted on this matter, the Government intend to bring forward proposals for the establishment of a Committee soon. We intend that the Committee should have time to consider the 2009 update to the National Security Strategy and to make recommendations for subsequent updates.

Regional Select Committees

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to paragraph 20, Chapter 1, of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, what proposals she has for building upon the accountability of the system of regional government to regional Select Committees in the House. [283954]

Barbara Keeley: Regional Select Committees began work in March and April this year. Three of the eight Committees are conducting inquiries that focus primarily on the work of regional development agencies; the others are conducting wider-ranging inquiries into the economic conditions in the region, which will touch on the work of regional development agencies.

The Government will continue to observe developments in the regional Select Committees as their inquiries progress.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of his Department's staff deployed in each region of Iraq *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2001 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Iraqi language. [283521]

Mr. Michael Foster: Records of language training carried out since 2001 have not been retained. Currently two Department for International Development (DFID) officials in Baghdad are taking part-time Arabic language classes.

There are also three Arabic-speaking Iraqi nationals working for DFID in Baghdad. In Basra, DFID employs two Arabic-speaking Iraqi nationals, and one further is being recruited.

DFID has employed over 40 Arabic-speaking Iraqi nationals in Iraq since 2001.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of his Department's staff deployed in each region of Afghanistan *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2001 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Afghan language. [283520]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not keep records of how many people have been trained in Afghan languages since 2001. Such training is frequently informal or organised privately by the individuals concerned.

DFID currently has seven UK-based staff members working in Kabul currently learning Dari, the official language of Afghanistan alongside Pashtu. In addition, we employ 16 locally engaged staff who are native Dari/Pashtu speakers in Kabul and one in Lashkar Gah. We also have access to Afghan translators for both languages in both Kabul and Lashkar Gah.

DFID provides over 95 per cent. of the funding for the cross-departmental Stabilisation Unit. It has 18 Pashtu and 21 Dari speakers on its database of deployable civilian experts. Two Pashtu speakers are currently deployed in Helmand.

Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's bilateral aid to each recipient country is *(a)* budgetary and *(b)* project support in 2008-09. [283964]

Mr. Michael Foster: A detailed breakdown of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral aid to each recipient country by aid-type is published in "Statistics on International Development", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House or via DFID's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role he expects *(a)* the Youth Culture Trust and *(b)* Creativity Culture and Education to have in the (i) Find your Talent and (ii) Creative Partnerships scheme. [284660]

Barbara Follett: As Creativity Culture and Education are still in the process of delivering the "Find Your Talent" pathfinders and Creative Partnerships scheme, the Youth Culture Trust has not yet been established.

This is because the purpose of the Youth Culture Trust is to deliver on the vision of "Find Your Talent" and the precise administrative arrangements for this will not be finalised until the scale and purpose of the programme beyond the pathfinders has been finalised.

Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to encourage children to adopt more active lifestyles in *(a)* Test Valley Borough and *(b)* Southampton in the last 12 months. [283320]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the following initiatives have received funding to encourage children to adopt more active lifestyles in *(a)* Test Valley and *(b)* Southampton in the last 12 months.

(i) Sport Unlimited

Sport Unlimited is an integral part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. The overall aim of Sport Unlimited is to increase opportunities for children and young people aged five to 19 to participate regularly in sport.

It will do this by providing a range of attractive and sustainable opportunities in sporting activities for young people to take part in out of school hours during term time and will focus on out of school hours and club activities both within school and community settings.

In Southampton, approximately £36,428 is allocated this financial year to deliver projects across the city. In addition, approximately £12,400 has been allocated to the Test Valley. Both areas will also benefit from the Leadership and Volunteering award. Sport England allocated £22,000 to the County Sports Partnership.

(ii) Awards for All

Awards for All allocated £9,300 to set up a rugby club for young people and adults with learning difficulties. Funding was for kit and equipment with the aim of providing opportunities for members to participate in training and competitive tag rugby matches in a safe and fun environment.

(iii) Other Sport England funding

Southampton Amateur Gym Club was awarded £8,414 from the Community Club Development Programme and Eastleigh Football in the Community was awarded £10,500 Sportsmatch funding.

(iv) Free Swimming

Southampton unitary authority has opted in to the under 16 and over 60 Free Swimming Programme and has received £173,211. The local authorities that have opted to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision. Southampton has received £69,290 in this regard.

Cricket: Schools

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate *(a)* Chance to Shine and *(b)* his Department has made of the percentage of schools which are playing competitive inter-school fixtures with hard cricket balls. [284233]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* My Department has made no estimate of the percentage of schools which are playing competitive inter-school fixtures with hard cricket balls. Sport England have advised that they do not collect data on the percentage of schools which play competitive inter-school fixtures with hard cricket balls.

Culture: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Find Your Talent scheme in *(a)* total and *(b)* each of the 10 pathfinder regions to date. [284661]

Barbara Follett: The total expenditure on Find Your Talent to date is approximately £6,833,601, of which approximately £6,389,301 has been spent on the 10 pathfinders. The breakdown is set out in the following table.

Pathfinder	*Total to date (£)*
Bolton	650,000
Shepway	498,000
Customs House	665,000
Leeds	740,000
Leicestershire	740,000
Liverpool	783,885
North Somerset	521,000
PUSH	611,416
Telford and Wrekin	560,000
Tower Hamlets	620,000
Total	6,389,301

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279512]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department will reach the age of 65 years in the year 2011. [283363]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* No employees at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will reach the age of 65 by the year 2011.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's estimate is of the level of under-spend over the whole period of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme, as referred to in the Digital Britain report; and how this estimate has been arrived at. [283164]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Audit Office estimated an underspend of around £250 million in 2008 based on the take-up rate of the Help Scheme during the switchover at Whitehaven and Copeland. We have since had continuing discussions with the BBC Help Scheme about take up rates in subsequent switchovers and other cost drivers, and these confirm that this is a robust estimate of the eventual underspend. After switchover in the Granada TV region is completed at the end of 2009, when a significant proportion and representative sample of households will have switched over, we will conduct a further stock-take of the position.

Football Foundation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England has paid to the Football Foundation in each of the last three years; and what payments he expects to be made in each of the next three years. [284234]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Sport England advise that in the last three years it has funded the Football Foundation for capital and revenue projects as follows:

2006-07: £20,675,000 (Exchequer) + £2,500,000 (Lottery)

2007-08: £16,000,000 (Exchequer) + £2,500,000 (Lottery)

2008-09: £17,500,000 (Exchequer)

In addition the Football Foundation received the following Exchequer payments on behalf of the Football Association under the Community Club Development Programme, a programme administered by Sport England:

2006-07: £1,388,784

2007-08: £2,307,495

2008-09: £4,047,670

Sport England is currently in negotiation with the Football Foundation over its funding agreement for 2009-13.

Hotels

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of trends in demand for hotels in the UK with *(a)* up to 20 bedspaces, *(b)* 21 to 100 bedspaces and *(c)* 101 or more bedspaces over the last 10 years. [283822]

Barbara Follett: DCMS has not undertaken an assessment of this kind in respect of hotels in the UK, and has no plans to do so.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to reduce the time required for applicants to complete a premises licence application. [283340]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no plans to reduce the time period during which a premises licence application under the Licensing Act 2003 can be considered by interested parties and responsible authorities. Those with a legitimate interest, such as local residents and the police, need sufficient time to consider applications and make representations.

However, the Department is currently developing proposals to enable fully electronic applications which will have the potential to significantly reduce the cost and time associated with completing and submitting an application form. In the longer term, we are also committed to reviewing the forms themselves to see whether they can be simplified and shortened.

Local Press: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what timetable has been set for the Audit Commission's review of council funding for local newspapers. [284005]

Mr. Bradshaw: Councils are not responsible for the funding of local newspapers. Councils may however take paid advertising to support local authority information sheets. As the Office of Fair Trading noted in its review, this practice may have an adverse impact on local newspapers.

In line with the recommendation in Chapter 5 of the Digital Britain Report, the Government have invited the Audit Commission to undertake a review of the impact of loss of advertising revenue on local newspapers. Their response is expected shortly.

Public Libraries

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to make a final ruling in the Wirral Library Review; when he plans to publish the new National Strategy for Libraries; and if he will make a statement. [284736]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State expects to announce his decision on the library service provided by Wirral metropolitan borough council as soon as possible after he has considered the conclusions of the independent inquiry. This is expected to report in the summer.

In respect of the Library Service Modernisation Review, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 510W.

Sport England

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to receive the report of the inquiry into the World Class Payments Bureau at Sport England; and whether the full report will be published. [284235]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I expect to receive the report of the inquiry into the World Class Payments Bureau this autumn and the full report to be published.

Sports Coach: Executives

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the employment status is of the Chief Executive of Sports Coach UK; and if he will make a statement. [284236]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Sports Coach UK is an independent organization which is not one of my Department's non-departmental public bodies. Therefore I am not in a position to comment on the employment status of its Chief Executive.

Tourism: Entry Clearances

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourist visitors there were to each region in the first quarter of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [284241]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The numbers of visits to the English regions in the first quarter of 2008 and 2009 are contained in the following table:

Table 1: First quarter 2008

Region	*Million*[1]
West Midlands	1.932
East of England	2.006
East Midlands	1.389
London	2.955
North West	2.408
North East	0.760
South East	3.282
South West	3.519
Yorkshire	2.034

Table 2: First quarter, 3 July 2009

Region	*Million*[1]
West Midlands	1.793
East of England	1.982
East Midlands	1.374
London	2.252
North West	2.202
North East	0.698
South East	2.889
South West	2.752
Yorkshire	1.965

[1] UK-resident domestic overnight trips in English regions, all purposes.

Tourism: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount spent on tourism by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [284307]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Figures for local authority tourism spending in England are drawn from returns made by individual authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government. The most recent data available are for 2007-08, in which net current expenditure on tourism amounted to £123.3 million.

Tourism: Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to produce with the Secretary of State for Transport a draft strategy to develop transport networks in order to encourage growth in the tourism industry. [280995]

Barbara Follett: We currently have no plans to produce such a strategy, but my Department is already working with the Department for Transport on a number of tourism transport issues. For example, ministerial colleagues from the Department for Transport are members of the recently established Cross-Government Ministerial Group on Tourism, which was set up to promote and support the industry in Westminster and Whitehall.

In addition, our recently published sustainable tourism framework takes account of the Department for Transport's "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" which sets out the Government's aim of building up a transport system which supports quality of life and a healthy natural environment. This is one of the Department for Transport's five strategic goals and is underpinned by a number of challenges which will be used to inform future transport spending priorities and could be used by transport planners for transport schemes that would support tourism.

UK School Games: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each funding stream contributed to the UK School Games in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and how much each stream is contributing to the 2009 UK School Games. [284788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A breakdown of the funding streams from the Exchequer, the National Lottery, private sponsorship and the host city for the UK School Games between 2006 and 2009 is displayed as follows:

2006 (£2.036 million)

Exchequer—£0
Lottery—£1,484,000 (Millennium Commission)
Private sector—£343,000
Host city—£209,000

2007 (£2.89 million)

Exchequer—£0
Lottery—£2.3 million (BIG Lottery)
Private sector—£540,000
Host city—£50,000

2008 (£3.260 million)

Exchequer—£2.7 million

Lottery—£0

Private sector—£160,000

Host city—£400,000

2009 (£3.4 million estimated)

Exchequer—£2.7 million

Lottery—£0

Private sector—£200,000 (estimated)

Host city—£500,000

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 615W, on the UK School Games: finance, how much funding the UK School Games received from *(a)* the Exchequer, *(b)* the National Lottery, *(c)* private sponsorship and *(d)* the host city money between 2006 and 2009; and how much funding from each source he expects to be provided in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [284239]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2009]*: A breakdown of funding from the Exchequer, the National Lottery, private sponsorship and the host city for the UK School Games between 2006 and 2009 is displayed in the following list:

2006 (£2.036 million)

Exchequer—£0

Lottery—£1,484,000 (Millennium Commission)

Private sector—£343,000

Host city—£209,000

2007 (£2.89 million)

Exchequer—£0

Lottery—£2.3 million (BIG Lottery)

Private sector—£540,000

Host city—£50,000

2008 (£3.260 million)

Exchequer—£2.7 million

Lottery—£0

Private sector—£160,000

Host city—£400,000

2009 (£3.4 million estimated)

Exchequer—£2.7 million

Lottery—£0

Private sector—£200,000 (estimated)

Host city—£500,000

The exact nature of distribution of funding for the games in 2010 and 2011 is currently under discussion.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Translation Services: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the National Framework Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals within the criminal justice system applies to Northern Ireland. [283694]

Paul Goggins: The "National Agreement on Arrangements for the Use of Interpreters and Translators in the Criminal Justice System" only applies to provision within England and Wales. In Northern Ireland, a joint contract has been established between relevant criminal justice organisations and the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (for face-to-face interpretation) and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (for sign language). This aims to enhance consistency in how interpretation is used across the criminal justice system by setting out the specific requirements of each partner organisation which is underpinned by individual organisational guidance. The contract provides flexibility for the use of interpreters registered with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (England and Wales), where particular requirements cannot be met locally.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces deployed in each region of Afghanistan *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2001 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Afghan language. [283554]

Bill Rammell: Records for Farsi are available from 2001. Very little training in Pashto and Dari was conducted before 2005. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Farsi and Dari are very similar languages and many personnel trained in Farsi have also received some training in Dari.

The following tables provide the available figures for each of the three relevant languages.

Pashto

	SLP1	*SLP2*	*SLP3*	*SLP4*	*Total*
2009	18	2	2	0	22
2008	11	33	18	2	64
2007	65	34	6	0	105
2006	30	17	1	0	48
2005	7	0	0	0	7
Total	131	86	27	2	246

Dari

	SLP1	*SLP2*	*SLP3*	*SLP4*	*Total*
2009	8	4	0	0	12
2008	6	2	1	0	9
2007	0	0	0	0	0
2006	6	6	0	0	12
2005	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	12	1	0	33

Farsi

	SLP1	*SLP2*	*SLP3*	*SLP4*	*Total*
2009	0	0	0	0	0
2008	5	15	3	1	24
2007	18	20	7	1	46
2006	3	19	12	3	37
2005	1	8	1	2	12
2004	0	1	4	3	8
2003	0	2	2	3	7
2002	0	0	2	2	4
2001	0	1	0	2	3
Total	27	66	31	17	141

The figures in the table do not include figures for the Special Forces and do not include personnel who have left the services since their language training and whose details are no longer available. The figures for 2009 are to date and do not include expected outputs for the remainder of the year.

Entries are made against the year when qualifications were achieved. SLP levels can be defined as follows: SLP1—Survival, SLP2—Functional, SLP3—Professional and SLP4—Expert. Qualifications in speaking and listening skills have been used to determine the SLP level against which personnel are listed.

The figures for Pashto do not include personnel who received SLP1 level training but were not examined, or did not pass the exam, at this level. It is estimated that up to 200 personnel fall into this category.

In addition to this, all military personnel deploying to Afghanistan receive a little training from native speakers in very basic phrases, words and responses, and are issued with an aide-mémoire. Approximately 14,000 personnel have received this very basic training in the last year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his speech given at Wilton Park on 15 January 2009, NATO at 60: towards a new strategic concept, how many additional helicopters have been delivered to forces in Afghanistan as a result of the UK-French Helicopter Fund established in the March 2008 Franco-British Summit Communiqué. [284554]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A number of nations have benefited from the UK-FR helicopter initiative to make their helicopters more deployable. The first three helicopters will deploy to Afghanistan as a direct result of the initiative from December this year. We expect a further five to deploy in 2010 and up to three more by end 2011. Additional contributions to the fund would further increase these numbers.

Armed Forces: Families

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation costs of families visiting service personnel in hospital have been met by his Department in the last two years. [283202]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Travel and accommodation at public expense for families visiting service personnel in hospital is covered by the Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (DILFOR) scheme. This scheme provides for two people to receive the full cost of accommodation and travel, including overseas travel, at public expense. This is usually provided to the individual's emergency contact or next of kin plus one other.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army recruits passed through phase *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 training without achieving entry level 3 in (i) literacy and (ii) numeracy in the most recent period for which figures are available. [284521]

Bill Rammell: The following table provides training phase 1 and 2 information for the period 31 October 2008 and 30 June 2009.

		Not recorded as achieving entry level 3			
		Literacy		*Numeracy*	
Training phase	*Total cohort*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*percentage*
Phase 1	4,842	258	5.3	178	3.7
Phase 2	5,088	236	4.6	153	3.0

However, some phase 2 trainees conduct apprenticeships, remedial training at Army education centres, or utilise external training providers, and their achievement of entry level 3 standard may not yet be on their personnel file. The figures provided above may therefore be higher than the true position.

Additional measures to support the delivery of basic skills were introduced in 2008, the benefits of which we expect to see in 2009 and beyond.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* in service with the UK Land Command, *(b)* fit for purpose, *(c)* undergoing repair and *(d)* unavailable for operations for other reasons. [284531]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Headquarters Land Command became Headquarters Land Forces on 1 April 2008. The vehicle holdings, as at 3 July 2009, are provided in the following table.

Vehicle type	*In service*	*Fit for purpose*	*Undergoing repair*	*Unavailable*
Warrior all variants	793	619	158	16
CVR(T) all variants	1,196	908	280	8
Saxon Patrol	147	140	5	2
AFV 430 all variants	1,487	1,360	107	20
Challenger 2	345	334	5	6
Challenger	81	75	4	2
Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle				
Titan	27	27	0	0
Trojan	28	28	0	0
Viking all variants	184	180	2	2
Stormer HVM	115	109	6	0
Shielder	30	25	1	4
AS 90	146	140	3	3
Panther	401	396	3	2
Jackal	202	160	41	1
Snatch	568	544	24	0
Mastiff	182	170	12	0
Ridgback	30	29	1	0
Vector	178	143	35	0

Some vehicle platforms have been undergoing radio conversion work, repairs and overhauls and have therefore been taken temporarily out of service on a rolling basis. This has affected the number of fit for purpose vehicles, which can change on a daily basis.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plans to purchase the Avaris 4x4 protected vehicle. [284598]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Government have no current plans to purchase the Aravis vehicle.

Elizabeth Cross

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 18-21WS, on armed forces recognition, for what reason a distinction is drawn between retrospective recognition for the families of those who served and died in *(a)* Palestine since 27 September 1945 and otherwise since 1 January 1948 and *(b)* the Second World War. [284659]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission attributed deaths up to 1 January 1948 to world war two service and recorded them on their Rolls of Honour and Memorials. The only exception to this is deaths in Palestine from 27 September 1945 to 30 June 1948, which will also be eligible for the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll. This is consistent with the dates used for recognition on the Armed Forces Memorial, although the criteria for inclusion on that memorial are different.

Gurkhas: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how many Gurkhas who retired from the armed forces before 1997 have since died; and if he will make a statement. [284164]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Insufficient information is held to enable a reliable estimate to be made of the number of Gurkhas who retired from the armed forces before 1997 and who have now passed away. Many generations of Gurkhas have served with great distinction in the UK armed forces, since they were first permitted to volunteer for British military service in the 1815 peace treaty that ended the Anglo-Nepalese war of 1814-15. Between 1948, when the Brigade of Gurkhas was formed as part of the British Army and 1 July 1997, when the Brigade became UK based, it is estimated that some 37,100 Gurkhas served in and were discharged from the Brigade. We also estimate that from those years there remain 34,700 Gurkhas and Gurkha widows, who are in receipt of a Gurkha pension.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of increasing the future pension for Gurkhas who served prior to 1997 to a level equivalent to that of British Army soldiers with the same service with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [284166]

Bill Rammell: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to implement changes to pensions and similar benefits retrospectively. This policy has been applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom, not just to Gurkha veterans. To do so now would not only be counter to this policy but would also lead to potential claims from other groups in public sector schemes.

The Gurkha pension scheme pays pensions earlier than the armed forces pension scheme. This is because Gurkhas are unlikely to work again in Nepal unlike their British counterparts, in the UK. For example, a Gurkha Rifleman or Corporal with 15 years service (approximately 85 per cent. of those receiving GPS payments) can claim an immediate pension (from age 33) whereas equivalent service under the AFPS would not attract pension payments until age 60. Like any pension scheme, the earlier the benefits are paid the lower the annual payment.

It has been estimated that the cost of increasing the annual pension payments for Gurkhas who served prior to 1 July 1997 to the amount received by their UK equivalents would be £1.5 billion over 20 years.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces deployed in each region of Iraq *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2003 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Iraqi language. [283555]

Bill Rammell: Arabic is the most widely spoken language in Iraq. Apart from Arabic, a number of minority languages are spoken in Iraq. The only language group with a population over 1 million is Kurdish, in its various forms, and the only other language groups with a population over 100,000 are Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, Azeri and Farsi.

The following table reflects the numbers of personnel trained in Arabic since 2003. Defence has not trained personnel in Kurdish. While Defence has a Farsi capability, no personnel have been trained in Farsi specifically for operations in Iraq, and neither Chaldean Neo-Aramic nor Azeri has ever been required in an Operation Telic context.

The following table provides the available figures for training in Arabic.

Arabic	*SLP1*	*SLP2*	*SLP3*	*SLP4*	*Total*
2009	1	3	0	0	4
2008	16	37	13	4	70
2007	67	88	26	5	186
2006	38	38	20	4	100
2005	40	16	19	3	78
2004	10	10	19	1	40
2003	1	3	16	0	20
Total	173	195	113	17	498

The above figures do not include figures for the special forces, and do not include personnel who have left the services since their language training and whose details are no longer available. The figures for 2009 are to date and do not include expected outputs for the remainder of the year.

Entries are made against the year when qualifications were achieved. SLP levels can be defined as follows: SLP 1—Survival, SLP 2—Functional, SLP 3—Professional and SLP 4—Expert. Qualifications in speaking and listening skills have been used to determine the SLP level against which personnel are listed.

The figures do not include personnel who received SLP 1 level training but were either not examined or did not pass the exam at this level. It is estimated that up to 200 personnel fall into this category.

The figures do not reflect the very basic Arabic language training provided to all deploying personnel. During pre-deployment training, they have received some instruction in greetings and responses, words and phrases, and have been issued with a language aide-mémoire to enable basic communication.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of training hours spent by fast jet pilots in each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force was in each *(a)* year since 2003 and *(b)* month of 2008. [255629]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training hours flying time RAF fast jet pilots were able to undertake on average in each year since 2004. [258877]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bill Rammell to Liam Fox:

My predecessor undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Questions on 23 February 2009 (Official Report, column 37W) and 2 March 2009 (Official Report, column 1364W) about the average training hours spent by fast jet pilots in each aircraft type in each year since 2003 and in each month of 2008 and the training hours flying time RAF fast jet pilots were able to undertake on average in each year since 2004, respectively. I undertook to write once officials had completed collating the data and as the two questions are very similar in nature I am providing a combined answer.

Aircrew are monitored for competency levels throughout their flying career and training continues for Front Line aircrew after the initial award of Combat Ready Status. This answer gives the number of average actual Front Line pilot training flying hours for 2005 onwards. Information prior to 2005 could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Additionally, subsequent changes to the flying hours reporting system have resulted in data not being held centrally for 2007/08; figures for that year could only be retrieved at disproportionate cost. Therefore, figures for the financial year 2007-08 have not been provided.

The available annual data is provided below and has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Average actual front line pilot training flying hours	
Fast jet aircraft type	*FY 2005/06*	*FY 2006/07*
Jaguar	225	197
Tornado F3	204	220
Tornado GR4	194	195
Harrier	165	148
Typhoon	264	250
Total hours	1,052	1,010

From the information provided above the average of actual fast jet pilot training flying hours is 210 for FY 2005-06 and 202 for FY 2006-07.

Changes to the flying hours reporting system mentioned above, also means that monthly data for the period January to March 2008 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The available monthly data for 2008 is provided below and has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Average actual monthly front line pilot training flying hours			
Month of 2008	*Tornado F3*	*Tornado GR4*	*Harrier*	*Typhoon*
April	12	11	12	17
May	10	11	9	15
June	13	10	9	15
July	11	9	10	15
August	11	9	9	11
September	10	11	14	15
October	10	10	12	14
November	9	8	7	14
December	5	6	5	7

We expect to fly less over the winter months as a result of stations standing down over the festive season and adverse weather conditions affecting planned flights.

The hours for Hawk training aircraft have not been included as these aircraft are not used on Operations.

I apologise for the delay in replying and any inconvenience caused.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 753W, on radioactive waste: waste management, which of the recommendations of the report have been implemented; and what the outstanding issues are which he expects to be addressed by the end of September 2009. [284615]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Of the 27 recommendations in the report, 23 have been implemented. It is anticipated that, of the four remaining recommendations, two covering design drawings and maintenance of underground pipe work will be completed by the end of September 2009.

It has been decided that the final two recommendations, which cover the requirement for safety justification and for new equipment, can best be addressed as part of a future options study to determine Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde's long-term plans for radioactive waste management arrangements. This is due to report in the first quarter of 2010.

In the meantime, all radioactive waste handling is carried out in accordance with procedures that have been agreed with the appropriate regulatory bodies, including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Territorial Army

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the location is of each Territorial Army centre in the United Kingdom; [280199]

(2) what the *(a)* establishment figure, *(b)* current manning figure and *(c)* location is of each unit of company equivalent level or higher of the Territorial Army in the United Kingdom. [280200]

Bill Rammell: There are more than 2,600 sites accommodating the reserve forces and Cadets, ranging from Cadet huts to training areas. The Territorial Army (TA) shares many of these sites with other reserve force and Cadet units, and some TA units are based at regular Army sites. Following the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Reserves to improve the Volunteer Estate, we are currently capturing detailed information about reserve force locations. Once this information is available, I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

A copy of TA sub-unit establishment liability figures will also be placed in the Library of the House.

As at 1 April 2009, total manning for the TA was 35,350. Manning information is held in the Joint Personnel Administration system but not in the format requested. This information could be provided at disproportionate cost in the requested format only.

Trident

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy not to take any decision on the initial gate stage of Trident until proposals for such a decision have been debated on the floor of the House; and if he will make a statement. [284968]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 628W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn).

JUSTICE

Appeals: Disability Living Allowance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of appeals against a refusal to award disability living allowance to young people with autism have been upheld in each year since 2001. [284132]

Bridget Prentice: The First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) does not keep the information which the hon. Member requested in a readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following disability living allowance data are available:

Numbers of disability living allowance appeals

	Appeals cleared at hearing[1]	*Decisions against the appellant*	*Percentage decision against*	*Decisions in favour of the appellant*	*Percentage decision in favour*
2001-02	78,169	35,674	43.6	41,623	53.2
2002-03	71,034	31,606	44.5	38,598	54.3
2003-04	71,800	33,990	46.8	37,223	51.8
2004-05	73,211	34,924	47.7	37,183	50.8
2005-06	71,125	34,363	48.3	35,495	49.9
2006-07	63,727	[2]—	[2]—	30,144	47.3
2007-08	58,842	30,813	52.4	26,974	45.8
2008-09	54,645	30;131	55.1	23,594	43.2

[1] In addition to decisions 'in favour' and 'against', this includes cases that have been withdrawn, postponed or adjourned.

[2] Data not available. Only limited data are available for 2006-07 as there was a change-over between computer systems during the year which has left an overlap in records which cannot be reconciled.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance the Information Commissioner has provided to local authorities on the use of CCTV cameras fitted with microphones. [284153]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the UK's independent authority established to promote access to official information and to protect personal data.

The ICO has not issued guidance specifically for local authorities on the operation of CCTV cameras. However, the Office published a revised edition of its CCTV code of practice in 2008. The code offers guidance to all operators of CCTV cameras to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

In addition, the ICO provides guidance to any data controller in response to specific queries; such queries could include the operation of CCTV cameras.

Coroners and Justice Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had since January 2009 with (i) hon. and right hon. Members and (ii) Members of the House of Lords wishing to amend the Coroners and Justice Bill to (A) repeal, (B) clarify the provisions of the existing law on the prohibition of assisted suicide and (C) make it easier to assist suicide overseas; and if he will make a statement; [283872]

(2) whether Ministers from his Department have *(a)* authorised Parliamentary Counsel to assist in drafting amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill on behalf of private Members in the House of Lords and *(b)* authorised officials in his Department to instruct Parliamentary Counsel to draft amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill which (i) were subsequently provided to private Members in the House of Lords and (ii) are intended to be provided to private Members in the House of Lords for tabling; and if he will make a statement. [283723]

Claire Ward: We have received 186 letters from hon. Members and right hon. Members and one letter from a Member of the House of Lords during this period.

My noble Friend Lord Bach has had a number of meetings with Members of the House of Lords on all sides on various aspects of the Coroners and Justice Bill including proposals by Lord Falconer to reform the law on assisted suicide.

With regard to the issue of legalising assisted suicide, the Government believe that this is an issue of individual conscience and hence a matter for Parliament to decide.

Parliamentary counsel has not been instructed by the Department to draft amendments to the Coroners and Justice Bill to be tabled by private Members in the House of Lords.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation on matters for which it is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283472]

Mr. Straw: Information as to statutory obligations arising from EU legislation and their associated costs is not held centrally by the Department and could not be collected without disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes to the criteria for eligibility for legal aid for civil cases have been made since May 1997. [284086]

Bridget Prentice: On 1 April 2000, the Access to Justice Act 1999 came into force and established the community legal service (CLS) in place of the previous civil legal aid scheme. The financial eligibility criteria for legal help and for legal representation through the CLS were set out in the Community Legal Service (Financial) Regulations 2000, which came into force on 1 April 2000. The financial criteria were substantially amended by the Community Legal Service (Financial) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2001, which came into force on 3 December 2001. This brought about the simplification of the means test, with the introduction of a gross income limit and disposable income calculation based on a small number of targeted allowances. The financial eligibility limits are increased from time to time in line with inflation. From April 2005, the income limits for legal help and legal representation were aligned. At the same time the disposable capital limit for legal help was increased from £3,000 to £8,000, and we allowed the disposable income limit to be waived for victims of domestic violence seeking protection from harm. From 9 April 2007 we extended this so that both income and capital limits could be waived for these domestic violence victims. On 6 April 2009 we increased the financial eligibility limits for civil legal aid by 5 per cent.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms on legal aid for civil cases in each year since 1996-97. [284171]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is shown in the following table, however, expenditure for 2008-09 is provisional. The figures do not include administration costs. The real terms expenditure is based on 2008-09 prices.

£ million

	Total cash civil legal aid expenditure	*Real terms expenditure*
1996-97	807	1,073
1997-98	793	1,028
1998-99	836	1,061
1999-2000	760	957
2000-01	792	973
2001-02	735	883
2002-03	813	946
2003-04	898	1,017
2004-05	846	932
2005-06	831	899
2006-07	809	850
2007-08	844	862
2008-09	913	913

Legal Services Commission

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with the Legal Services Commission the incidence of solicitors paying referral fees to other solicitors for advocacy work under the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme. [284277]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently investigating a small number of specific allegations that have been made about referral fees. The LSC will continue to investigate any specific issues brought to its attention, and will respond appropriately if a firm has breached the terms of its contract with the LSC.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been allocated by his Department through the *(a)* exceptional funding process and *(b)* Legal Services Commission to Green Planning Solutions in relation to planning inquiries in the last five years. [284085]

Bridget Prentice: Advocacy before a planning inquiry is outside the normal scope of civil legal aid. Green Planning Solutions have not been, and are not, contracted providers of civil legal aid, and therefore would not have provided legal aid advice on planning matters. Neither my Department, nor the Legal Services Commission, have any record of legal aid for advocacy before a planning inquiry being granted to a client of Green Planning Solutions under the exceptional funding scheme.

Local Government Boundary Committee for England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology is used by the *(a)* Boundary Committee for England and *(b)* Boundary Commission to estimate the size of the electorate for the purposes of boundary reviews. [284087]

Mr. Wills: Questions relating to the Boundary Committee for England are the responsibility of the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission.

Under the current rules governing reviews by the Boundary Commission, the electorate of any constituency in each part of the United Kingdom must be as near as is practicable to the electoral quota (which, broadly, is the average number of electors in each constituency). Differences in the size of the electorate in each constituency may occur since the Boundary Commission may depart from strict application of the rules in specified circumstances, for example, where special geographical considerations apply or to take account of any local ties which would be broken by boundary changes. The rules require the Boundary Commission when carrying out a review to use the number of electors whose names appear on the register of parliamentary electors in force on the date on which the notice of the start of the review is published.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 26 May 2009 concerning a constituent. [284612]

Bridget Prentice: My noble Friend, Lord Bach, replied on 30 June. I apologise for the delay.

Non-molestation Orders

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people applied for a non-molestation order in county courts or the High Court in 2008; and how many were issued. [283596]

Mr. Straw: The numbers of non-molestation orders applied for and issued during 2008 have not yet been published. Quarterly figures covering 2008 are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice web site shortly.

Offenders: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders in each age group there were in the (i) Thames Valley and (ii) Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [283852]

Claire Ward: The number of males and females, by age group, found guilty at all courts, or issued with a caution for all offences in Thames Valley police force area (PFA) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice are not available for the Milton Keynes area.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of males and females by age group, found guilty at all courts[1, 2] or issued with a caution[2, 3, 4] for all offences in Thames Valley police force area, 2003-07

	Males			Females		
	10 to 17 years	*18 years and over*	*All ages*	*10 to 17 years*	*18 years and over*	*All ages*
Found guilty						
2003	1,897	34,837	36,734	271	7,631	7,902
2004	1,729	38,039	39,768	257	9,258	9,515
2005	2,290	36,566	38,856	403	9,154	9,557
2006	2,287	32,015	34,302	378	8,073	8,451
2007	2,284	31,134	33,418	420	8,232	8,652
Caution						
2003	1,983	2,792	4,775	810	948	1,758
2004	2,379	3,519	5,898	1,149	1,196	2,345
2005	3,313	6,450	9,763	1,558	2,016	3,574
2006	2,822	7,177	9,999	1,261	2,150	3,411
2007	2,890	7,286	10,176	1,297	2,069	3,366

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit: Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Official Documents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Government have not signed the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents. [284712]

Mr. Wills: The UK Government must be satisfied that their laws are compatible with the provisions of the Convention before they can make any decision to sign and then ratify the Convention.

On 10 June 2009, the Prime Minister announced that the UK Government intended to reduce the time taken to open official records to the public from 30 to 20 years, and to make two amendments to the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to ensure that information access arrangements allow essential constitutional relationships and conventions to be preserved. These proposed amendments would have an impact upon our freedom of information legislation and so must first be carefully assessed.

The UK's freedom of information regime is among the most open and rigorous in the world. It already goes further than the standards of the Convention in a number of areas.

Pleural Plaques

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce his decision on compensation for those with pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [284657]

Bridget Prentice: We intend to announce our decision and publish a response paper before the summer recess.

Prison Accommodation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve conditions in prisons. [284109]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service has a statutory duty to hold all prisoners in decent conditions.

As part of our commitment to increase the capacity of the prison estate to 96,000 places, we are building new prisons and expanding existing prisons. The new buildings produced by this capacity programme are providing modern accommodation that is fully compliant with relevant standards such as the new safer cell specification.

In addition, on 27 April I announced that, instead of building three 2,500 place "Titan" prisons, we plan to build five 1,500 place prisons. Our model will draw on best practice in the existing estate to provide first class regimes that will help offenders address their offending behaviour. The 7,500 places provided by these new prisons will allow for the closure of some of the most worn out places.

These measures support our aim, not only to provide additional capacity, but to modernise the estate and improve the quality of accommodation.

For existing accommodation, we have a rolling programme of refurbishment that allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken.

Probation: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has allocated to Essex Probation Service for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [283888]

Maria Eagle: The grant allocation to Essex probation area for the last five years is as follows:

	Grant allocation to Essex probation area (£)
2008-09	20,147,000
2007-08	19,091,000
2006-07	18,322,000
2005-06	16,923,000
2004-05	15,494,000

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was among Probation Service employees in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [283889]

Maria Eagle: Sickness absence in Essex probation area and absence due to injury at work over the last five years is detailed in the table. Costs are calculated on average pay and include on-costs:

April to March each year	*All of Essex (days per FTE)*	*Cost (£)*	*Absence due to injury at work and cost*
2004-05	12	592,000	0
2005-06	11	569,000	0
2006-07	10	542,000	20 days total £2,500
2007-08	13	717,000	25 days total £2,500
2008-09	8	471,000	12 days total £1,200

There are no staff assigned specifically to the Castle Point area, and therefore only figures for the whole of the county of Essex have been provided.

Reoffenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* persons discharged from prison and *(b)* persons on probation supervision with an accredited programme reoffended within two years of release in the last period for which figures are available. [284304]

Maria Eagle: The latest statistics on reoffending published in May 2009 report the reoffending rates over a one-year follow up period.

The following table shows the one-year reoffending rates and frequency per 100 offenders for adult offenders who were discharged from custody or who commenced a community order or suspended sentence order and received an accredited programme requirement under that order, in the first quarter of 2007.

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Custody	12,810	47.2	223.2
Community order (with an accredited programme)[1]	6,930	41.0	141.6
Suspended sentence order (with an accredited programme)[1]	3,328	40.9	133.6

[1] Offenders who received an accredited programme as a requirement under their community or suspended sentence order. This may be the only requirement, or in combination with others.

Further information on the one-year rates of reoffending can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reoffenders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate for offenders in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* the Hertfordshire probation area was in each of the last 10 years. [284322]

Maria Eagle: The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the following table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

The most recent reoffending rates for Hertfordshire are shown in the following table. Reoffending rates for Hemel Hempstead are not available. This is because local reoffending rates are produced for probation areas and upper tier local authorities only.

Local reoffending rates for Hertfordshire, 1 January to 31 December 2008

	Number of offenders	*Actual reoffending rate (percentage)*
Hertfordshire probation area	10,239	8.71

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area or local authority are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Further details on local adult reoffending are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

Reoffenders: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate for offenders in *(a)* Thames Valley and *(b)* Milton Keynes was in each of the last 10 years. [283853]

Maria Eagle: The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the following table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

The most recent reoffending rates for Thames Valley probation area and the Milton Keynes local authority area are shown in the following table.

Local reoffending rates for Thames Valley and Milton Keynes, 1 January to 31 December 2008

	Number of offenders	*Actual reoffending rate (percentage)*
Thames Valley probation area	20,038	9.79
Milton Keynes local authority area	2,842	9.71

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area or local authority are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008. Further details on local adult reoffending are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

Reparation by Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* research his Department has carried out into the effects of the introduction of high-visibility jackets for offenders on unpaid work. [284303]

Maria Eagle: Distinctive clothing in the form of orange high visibility jackets for offenders undertaking Community Payback work was introduced in December 2008 as one of the measures to respond to the recommendations of the report "Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime."

Since its introduction in December 2008, the level of use of this distinctive clothing has been monitored. This monitoring is on a quarterly basis and by the end of March 2009 over 400,000 hours of Community Payback work were undertaken by offenders wearing the distinctive clothing. The figures for the next quarter should be available by the end of July.

Home Office polling shows that nationally awareness of Community Payback has risen from 49 per cent. in November 2008 to 74 per cent. in April 2009.

Repossession Orders: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [283849]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Tamworth constituency are not available. However, the following table shows the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Tamworth county court for 2004-08.

Statistics on mortgage and landlord possession actions are routinely published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Tamworth county court may therefore relate to properties in other constituencies besides Tamworth constituency.

The Ministry of Justice published a consultation note on 15 May 2009 covering proposed changes to the national statistics on mortgage and landlord possession actions in the county courts of England and Wales. One of these is to provide geographical breakdowns based on the physical location of the properties subject to the possession actions. The Ministry of Justice intends to make available figures for Westminster parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales upon publication of 2009 Qtr 2 (April to June) statistics on 14 August 2009.

The consultation note can be viewed on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/stats-mort-landlord-note.pdf

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2] possession orders made[3, 4] in Tamworth county court, 2004-08

	Mortgage	*Landlord*
2004	172	202
2005	251	189
2006	290	161
2007	301	126
2008	340	154

Notes:

1. Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
2. The landlord data includes all types of landlords whether social or private sector, and cover orders made using both the standard and accelerated possession procedures. The accelerated procedure is used by landlords in relation to shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end. It enables orders to be made by the court solely on the basis of written evidence and without calling the parties to hearings.
3. The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
4. Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Sentencing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the high-visibility unpaid work community sentence. [284113]

Maria Eagle: Unpaid work was introduced as one of the 12 requirements that sentencers can impose as part of a community order by the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Community Payback was launched nationally in 2005 with the aim, among other things, of increasing the visibility of the work done and improving public confidence. To increase visibility still further, distinctive clothing in the form of orange high visibility jackets, has been worn by offenders undertaking Community Payback since December 2008. The level of use of this distinctive clothing is being monitored on a quarterly basis and shows that by the end of March 2009 over 400,000 hours of Community Payback had been performed by offenders wearing distinctive clothing. Figures for the next quarter should be available by the end of July.

Home Office polling shows that nationally awareness of Community Payback has risen from 49 per cent. in November 2008 to 74 per cent. in April 2009.

Terrorism: Prisons

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to paragraph 8.05 of the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009, what arrangements have been put in place in prisons within the high security estate in England and Wales for the collection of intelligence relating to prisoners suspected or convicted of terrorist-related activities or extremism. [284060]

Mr. Straw: The arrangements for gathering intelligence relating to terrorism or extremism in prisons are the same as those for receiving intelligence on any security matter, namely security information reports submitted by prison staff who are already in place carrying out their normal day to day duties.

High security establishments have staff within their security departments whose role it is to monitor and assess intelligence that has been received relating to terrorism and extremism.

CABINET OFFICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* between 21 and 30, *(c)* between 31 and 40, *(d)* between 41 and 50, *(e)* between 51 and 60 and *(f)* 61 years and above died from an underlying cause which was alcohol-related in each of the last 10 years. [284844]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* between 21 and 30, *(c)* between 31 and 40, *(d)* between 41 and 50, *(e)* between 51 and 60 and *(f)* 61 years and above died from an underlying cause which was alcohol-related in each of the last 10 years. (284844)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause for *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) under 21,[1] (ii) 21 - 30, (Hi) 31 - 40, (iv) 41 - 50, (v) 51 - 60 and (vi) 61 years and over, in England and Wales, from 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).

[1] The specified age group 'under 20' has been amended to '20 and under' so as not to exclude deaths at age 20 from the table.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], England and Wales[2], 1999 to 2008[3,4]

		Deaths									
		1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Males	Under 21	5	6	13	2	7	5	9	3	2	8
	21-30	51	54	63	69	58	57	59	65	66	72
	31-40	354	339	403	409	441	392	379	410	412	477
	41-50	834	865	961	946	1,048	1,021	1,034	1,112	1,087	1,141
	51-60	980	1,023	1,134	1,117	1,291	1,287	1,363	1404	1452	1471
	61+	1,161	1,166	1,268	1,334	1,413	1,458	1,524	1,562	1,559	1,671
Females	Under 21	5	2	1	0	3	2	2	1	2	0
	21-30	23	36	26	25	34	28	28	35	42	25
	31-40	199	194	182	175	207	206	201	219	212	207
	41-50	442	411	486	516	466	505	523	506	548	551
	51-60	482	516	541	522	591	628	636	658	688	712
	61+	751	794	815	851	865	899	865	929	971	1,006

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1999 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of Over without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic nonalcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic Over disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	142.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl.K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Cannabis: Death

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cannabis-related deaths there were in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* Merseyside in the last 12 months. [284945]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cannabis-related deaths there were in (a) Crosby constituency and (b) Merseyside in the last 12 months. (284945)

There were no deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis was mentioned alone or with other substances on the death certificate in (a) Crosby constituency, [2] in 2007[3] (the latest year available).

There were no deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis alone was mentioned on the death certificate, and two deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis was mentioned together with other substances on the death certificate in (b) Merseyside metropolitan county,[2] in 2007[3] (the latest year available).

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD- 10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below), and where cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Charity Commission: Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many requests for communications data were made by the Charity Commission to communication service providers (CSPs) under the Charities Act 1993 in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004, *(f)* 2005, *(g)* 2006, *(h)* 2007 and *(i)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284873]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated July 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on requests for communications data made by the Charity Commission to communication service providers under the Charities Act 1993.

Section 9 of the Charities Act (1993) provides the Charity Commission with the power to require anyone who has information which is relevant to the discharge of any of the Commission's functions to provide us with that information. This power extends to relevant documents. The Charity Commission also has a specific power, when we are conducting an inquiry, to require the production of accounts, statements in writing, written answers to questions, and copy documents from anyone who is able to provide them (section 8 of the Charities Act).

To date the Commission has not kept statistics on the use of these powers to obtain communications data from communication service providers. However, since the enactment of the Regulation of Investigative Powers Act (RIPA) in 2000, it has been the general practice for regulators, such as the Charity Commission, and communications service providers to exchange information under RIPA requirements. Since 2000, the Charity Commission has used the RIPA to obtain communications data eight times:

(a) 2000 nil

(b) 2001 nil

(c) 2002 nil

(d) 2003 nil

(e) 2004 2 times

(f) 2005 3 times

(g) 2006 nil

(h) 2007 3 times

(i) 2008 nil

On all of these occasions the requests for communications data was acceded to by the service provider.

In all cases the information obtained was used to progress our statutory investigations. We only use these powers when absolutely necessary and in the most serious of cases. Their use is always authorised at a senior level within the Commission.

I hope this is helpful. A senior member of the Commission's Compliance team would be very happy to discuss this aspect of our work with you if that would be useful.

Children

Mark Fisher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the latest estimate is of the number of children in a household in which no adult is in work in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Stoke-on-Trent. [283099]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the latest estimate is of the number of children in a household in which no adults work in a) the UK and b) Stoke-on-Trent. (283099)

Information at local authority level comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset. Estimates for January to December 2007 are shown in the attached table. Information for the UK is also provided from the same dataset for consistency purposes.

Figures for children in households are based on children aged under 16 years old living in working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. A guide to the quality of the estimates is included in the table.

Number of children[1] in workless[2] households in Stoke-on-Trent and United Kingdom, January to December 2007

			Thousands
	Estimate	Lower bound[3]	Upper bound[3]
UK	1,759	1,709	1,810
Stoke-on-Trent	11	8	14

[1] Children under 16.

[2] Workless household is a working-age household where no one aged 16 or over is working.

[3] 95 per cent. confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

Annual Population Survey Household data sets.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1446-47W, on civil servants: pensions, (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Hewitt Associates advice on withdrawal from with-profit funds; [270175]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the Cabinet Office to members of the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme; and what alternative funds are proposed in place of with-profits funds; [270176]

(3) for what reasons the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme is withdrawing from with-profits funds. [270177]

Angela E. Smith: Copies of the letters sent, in November 2007, to civil servants investing in the with-profits funds offered, as part of the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme by (a) Scottish Widows and (b) Standard Life, have been placed in the Library of the House. These incorporate advice from Hewitt Associates Financial Services Limited.

Death: Cannabis

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cannabis-related deaths there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [285135]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cannabis-related deaths there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months (285135).

There were no deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate, in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum local authority district or *(c)* Hertfordshire county, registered in 2007[2] (the latest year available).

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below), and where cannabis was mentioned on die death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Life Expectancy

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the life expectancy of *(a)* women and *(b)* men in England in each of the last 10 years. [284747]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the life expectancy of (a) women and (b) men in England in each of the last 10 years. (284747)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The table below provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) women and (b) men in England, for 1996-98 to 2005-07 (the latest figures available).

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], England, 1996-98 to 2005-07[2]

	Years of life	
	Females	Males
1996-98	80	75
1997-99	80	75
1998-2000	80	75
1999-2001	80	76
2000-02	81	76
2001-03	81	76
2002-04	81	77

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], England, 1996-98 to 2005-07[2]

	Years of life	
	Females	*Males*
2003-05	81	77
2004-06	82	77
2005-07	82	78

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in die area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the conception rate among women under the age of 18 years was in each of the last five years. [284761]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate among women under the age of 18 years was in each of the last five years. (284761)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the rate of conceptions among women aged under the age of 18 for England and Wales for 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

Table 1: Rate of conceptions among women aged under 18[1], England and Wales, 2003 to 2007

	Rate per 1,000[2] *Conceptions*
2003	42.4
2004	41.8
2005	41.4
2006	40.9
2007[3]	41.9

[1] Under 18 years at estimated date of conception.

[2] Number of conceptions to women under 18 per 1,000 female population aged 15-17.

[3] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the 2002 cross-cutting review on the voluntary and community sector conducted by HM Treasury; and if she will make a statement. [284207]

Angela E. Smith: In June 2005, the National Audit Office (NAO) published a report assessing the Government's progress in implementing the 2002 cross-cutting review on the voluntary and community sector conducted by HM Treasury. The report found that the recommendations of the cross-cutting review had been addressed but outlined 12 further recommendations. All of these have been taken forward via the subsequent creation of the Office of the Third Sector and in the 2007 Third Sector Review.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Prime Minister plans to attend the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. [283575]

Mr. Kidney: It is a decision for the Danish Government, as hosts of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December, whether Heads of Government will be invited to attend. Currently there are no plans for Heads of Government to do so. The UK Delegation to the conference will be led by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282891]

Mr. Kidney: The information is as follows:

(a) DECC has not made an application for money saved from efficiency savings to be used to increase pay in the 2009 pay offer to staff.

(b) Nor has any of the non-departmental public bodies for which the Department has responsibility.

Energy Supply

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Board of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority has taken to protect consumers. [283279]

Mr. Kidney: The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority [GEMA] has, as its principal objective, the protection of the interests of present and future consumers. It governs the independent gas and electricity regulatory body, Ofgem. I have, therefore, asked Lord Mogg, GEMA chairman, to reply direct to the hon. Member's question.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of contribution of changes in household energy use towards achievement of UK carbon dioxide emission reduction targets for *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2050. [281241]

Mr. Kidney: The information is as follows:

(a) The most recent published update to our energy and carbon dioxide emission projections, made in November 2008, estimated that the policies and measures in the 2007 Energy White Paper and the 2006 UK Climate Change Programme would result in carbon savings from the residential sector in the year 2020 of about 46 Mt CO_2. This was out of a total level of carbon savings of around 119 Mt CO_2 equivalent, which these policy packages were predicted to deliver across all sectors of the UK economy.

(b) It is clear that improving the energy efficiency of our homes and appliances will continue to play a vital role in meeting our emissions reductions targets [illegible] to 2050 and beyond. We will be describing this in more detail in the White Paper on Energy and Climate Change scheduled for publication in July.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings Ofgem has had with *(a)* energy suppliers and *(b)* consumer groups and representatives on its Energy Supply Probe since 2008. [283277]

Mr. Kidney: Since Ofgem announced the Energy Supply Probe in February 2008 it has met with a wide range of stakeholders on numerous occasions to hear their views. These stakeholders include representatives from the major energy suppliers, other smaller suppliers, consumer groups and a range of other interested parties.

Ofgem has also conducted two formal consultation exercises following draft proposals made in October 2008 and April 2009.

Nuclear Power Stations: Accidents

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contingency plans are in place to deal with serious nuclear incidents. [280803]

Joan Ruddock: All nuclear installations in the UK have detailed emergency plans in order to respond to an accident or emergency that could occur on the site. The on and off-site plans are tested on a regular basis. Testing of the emergency plans is assessed by teams of inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive's nuclear installations inspectorate. Annually, one of the nuclear licensed site off-site emergency plans is chosen to test not only the regional response to an emergency but also test the wider arrangements to involve central Government, including the exercising of the various Government Departments and agencies.

Nuclear Power Stations: Inspections

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how frequently inspections are made of the cooling ponds used to store nuclear fuel rods at each location in the UK. [280801]

Mr. Kidney: The nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) monitors and reviews the effectiveness of the licensee's activities and compliance with safety requirements on nuclear licensed sites including the routine inspection of activities related to the fuel route which includes fuel ponds. Additionally, the Environment Agencies in England and Wales and Scotland inspect facilities to ensure compliance with the relevant environment legislation.

The frequency of future inspections is adjusted according to the outcome of the findings of the inspectors from the HSE and the Environment Agencies.

Ofgem: Complaints

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* interim and *(b)* final audit report complied by PKF for Ofgem on complaint handling. [283245]

Mr. Kidney: On 30 June 2009 Ofgem published final audit reports from PKF on complaint handling by *(a)* the main six suppliers and *(b)* smaller suppliers. Copies of both of these reports have been placed in the House of Commons Library. An interim report was not produced by PKF as part of this process.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what terms of reference were given to PKF in respect of its work for Ofgem on complaints handling; and what fees were paid to the company for that work. [283247]

Mr. Kidney: The fees paid to PKF in respect of its work for Ofgem on complaints handling, amounted to £93,378.24 (exclusive of VAT). A copy of the Terms of Reference given to PKF have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ofgem: Opinion Leader Research

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Ofgem has paid to Opinion Leader Research *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2009-10 to date. [283203]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem paid the following amounts exclusive of VAT to Opinion Leader Research in the five years prior to 2009-10:

	£
2008-09	46,699
2007-08	0
2006-07	0
2005-06	0
2004-05	0

During 2009-10, Ofgem has to date paid £60,775.02 exclusive of VAT to Opinion Leader Research.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process was used to select Opinion Leader Research to conduct work on Ofgem's Consumer First Panel. [283259]

Mr. Kidney: The Consumer First Panel was competitively tendered under Ofgem's framework for market research services and was compliant with Official Journal of the European Union regulations and processes.

Ofgem: Public Consultation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments Ofgem has made to the members of its *(a)* Consumer Challenge Panel and *(b)* Consumer First Panel in the last 12 months. [283258]

Mr. Kidney: In the last 12 months, Ofgem has made payments totalling £29,384.80 (exclusive of VAT) to members of its Consumer Challenge Panel.

Members of the Consumer First Panel are entitled to a payment of £50 per meeting attended. Payments are made by Opinion Leader Research as part of its contract with Ofgem. During the last 12 months, there have been three panel meetings held. The attendance at those meetings was 99, 90 and 83 respectively.

Renewable Energy: Manufacturing Industries

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of heat derived from renewable sources *(a)* generated and *(b)* consumed by each industrial sector in each year since 2005. [282272]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Government collect statistics on renewable heat generation in total (c.f. Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2008, table 7.6 "renewable sources used to generate electricity and heat and for transport fuels") but these figures are not broken down across industrial sectors. This table shows that the total amount of renewable heat generated across the UK economy was 8.48 TWh in 2007 (most recent year available), 7.51 TWh in 2006 and 6.97 TWh in 2005.

Renewable heat is also produced by combined heat and power (CHP) plants that use renewable fuels, and the data on these—on a whole-economy basis—are presented in table 6.6 of DUKES. This shows that in 2007 out of a total of 53,050 GWh of heat generated by CHP plants in the UK 992 GWh came from those using renewable fuels i.e. almost 2 per cent. A significant percentage of these plants will be within the industrial sector.

The September 2008 edition of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's 'Energy Trends' publication had a special feature "Estimates of Heat Use in the UK" focusing on 2006. The figure for heat consumption by manufacturing industry[1] for that year was given (table 4) as 216 TWh [or 18,577 ktoe[2]], and it was noted that this did not include '2.3 TWh [198 ktoe] of renewable fuels (predominantly used for renewable heat)'. This would equate (assuming 100 per cent. heat use) to around 1.0 per cent. of total heat demand for this sector being met from renewable sources.

[1] The definition of manufacturing industry used did not include mining and quarrying, recycling, the collection, purification and distribution of water, and construction.

[2] Kilotonnes of oil equivalent. DUKES uses this unit; 1 tonne oil equivalent = 11.63 MWh.

Sizewell A Power Station

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of repairing the coolant leak discovered at Sizewell A on 7 June 2007. [280800]

Mr. Kidney: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 January 2007 as I am not aware of such an incident at Sizewell A on the 7 June 2007.

The cost of the repair of the coolant leak is a matter for the operating company.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his predecessor Department was informed about the coolant leak at Sizewell A discovered on 7 June 2007; and what steps Ministers took following receipt of the information. [280805]

Mr. Kidney: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 January 2007 as I am not aware of such an incident at the site on 7 June 2007.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was informed of the incident on 7 January 2007 by the operators and the regulators. Any further action is a matter for the independent regulators.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his predecessor Department had with the *(a)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(b)* Environment Agency as a result of the discovery of a coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 June 2007. [280806]

Mr. Kidney: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 January 2007, as I am not aware of such an incident at the site on 7 June 2009.

The arrangements in place for reporting events on nuclear licensed sites in the UK are well established. The information received by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) from the licensee is distributed according to the significance of the event. In this instance relevant Government Departments were alerted through the normal reporting arrangements. NII had no formal discussions with DTI or BERR about the event, but maintained regular contact at official level. Throughout its investigations NII kept the Environment Agency informed of progress.

The Environment Agency (EA) had no formal discussions with DEFRA concerning the incident though at official level there was regular contact.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who presented at accident and emergency departments were not subsequently admitted to hospital in each year since 1997. [284292]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information in the format requested.

However, the Department does collect data on the number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances and the number of admissions to hospital wards via an A&E unit. Data on both of these are presented in the following table, for years in which figures are available.[1]

[1] The criteria for calculating attendance and admissions numbers have varied slightly over the period covered by the table.

	First attendances	*Admissions via A&E*	*Those attending A&E not subsequently admitted*
1997-98	12,793,720	1,847,521	10,946,199
1998-99	12,811,064	1,955,969	10,855,095
1999-2000	13,167,495	2,035,119	11,132,376
2000-01	12,953,432	2,105,021	10,848,411
2001-02	12,900,727	2,224,833	10,675,894
2002-03	13,253,405	2,288,053	10,965,352
2003-04	15,312,738	2,467,748	12,844,990
2004-05	16,711,750	2,813,368	13,898,382
2005-06	17,775,225	2,951,076	14,824,149
2006-07	18,010,506	3,037,131	14,973,375
2007-08	18,302,138	3,087,020	15,215,118

	First attendances	*Admissions via A&E*	*Those attending A&E not subsequently admitted*
2008-09	18,820,828	3,266,603	15,554,225

Note:
To note also that data on the number of attendances at A&E type 1 departments are available and published quarterly via the Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring A&E Services dataset. This includes patients who attended A&E but who were not subsequently treated and counts each attendance by the same patient separately.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times stomach pumping was used in NHS hospitals for the treatment of excessive alcohol consumption in the last 12 months. [283929]

Gillian Merron: Data on stomach pumping for the treatment of excessive alcohol consumption are not collected centrally.

Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new specialist training posts for allergy specialists will take effect in August 2009. [284618]

Ann Keen: There are no newly created specialist training posts for allergy specialists taking effect in August 2009. The number of posts advertised in open recruitment in England for entry into allergy in the current recruitment round is two.

Back Pain

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have received NHS treatment for back problems in each year since 1997. [284194]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the number of people treated with back problems in the national health service is not collected centrally as back pain sufferers are normally treated in a primary care environment. The Hospital Episode Statistics data are able to give information on hospital admissions only, where clinical codes exist.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission services for people with back problems to meet the needs of their local population. The Department is supporting commissioning through the recent publication of an 18-week pathway for the management and treatment of back pain and treatments. NHS Choices has also provided information that will raise awareness of back pain and treatments.

Complementary Medicine

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which complementary therapies are provided through the NHS. [284143]

Gillian Merron: Decisions about what services, including complementary therapies, to commission or fund are the responsibility of the national health service. Primary care trusts will often have their own policies on this, based on available evidence of safety, efficacy and relevant National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations. The Department does not maintain a position on any type of complementary or alternative medicine treatment.

Dental Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage dentists who provide NHS services to take on additional NHS patients. [284627]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess the local demand for national health service dentistry, and commission appropriate services to meet it.

All 10 strategic health authorities have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest. We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

"NHS dental service in England: An independent review led by Professor Jimmy Steele", published on 22 June recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality, including how to structure the dental contract to further support dentists to take on new patients. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the effect on the level of demand for NHS dental services of the economic downturn. [283825]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess local demand for national health services dental services, taking into account all factors which are likely to affect this, and commission the appropriate services.

All 10 strategic health authorities have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest. We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed. New practices are opening regularly as a result of the new funding and focus. NHS dental services are expanding and therefore in a strong position to meet any extra demand that may result from the economic downturn.

"NHS dental service in England: An independent review led by Professor Jimmy Steele", published on 22 June recommends a series of further actions to pport access and quality. Piloting of the recommendations ll begin from this autumn. This report has already en placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/ PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

Doctors: Entry Clearances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State r Health how many non-EU doctors were granted try to work in the NHS *(a)* through the points-based migration system and *(b)* under other systems in ch of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the octors in the NHS were non-EU doctors in each such ar. [284429]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect these ta centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for ealth how much funding has been provided to people esident in Hemel Hempstead by the National reatment Agency in each of the last five years; and ow much has been allocated in the next two years. [283671]

Gillian Merron: The Government provide specific esources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled rug treatment budget (PTB), administered by the National reatment Agency for Substance Misuse, which combined vith local mainstream funding results in substantial nvestment in local drug treatment funding.

The PTB is allocated to local drug partnerships and igures for the Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Team re as follows:

	Funding (£)
005-06	4,120,026
006-07	4,933,918
007-08	5,025,733
008-09	4,961,579
009-10	4,976,990

The projected PTB allocation for 2010-11 is £4,704,952. However, the exact allocation is dependent on partnership performance and will not be confirmed until January 2010. Figures for 2011-12 are not yet available.

Until 2008-09 PTB was allocated against a basket of indicators of social and economic deprivation known to reflect drug use as the best available proxy of treatment need.

Differences in performance between drug partnerships in getting people into treatment were resulting in unjustifiable variations in the size of the central contribution to the costs of each person's treatment.

2009-10 is the second year of a process which seeks to produce a fairer allocation system which more accurately matches need, activity and resources.

The new process is based on three elements:

25 per cent. of the allocation is based on the indicators underpinning the previous formula to reflect the differential cost of responding to different levels of complex need such as homelessness, mental heath, family breakdown and unemployment;

75 per cent. is based on activity in the treatment system with areas being allocated a set amount per person treated effectively; and

The final element is an area cost adjustment figure to reflect the varying costs of delivering services in different parts of the country.

To promote an orderly alteration to service planning, the change is being introduced over three years.

Hearing Impaired: Sight Impaired

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many communicator-guides there were *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available; [284215]

(2) how many deafblind people there were in England *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [284216]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care does not collect information centrally about the numbers of communicator guides.

In 2001 guidance was issued to councils regarding the recording of deafblind registration. Where a person had a number of additional disabilities including deaf or hard of hearing, councils were advised to count these under the category of deaf and hard of hearing. Therefore in 1997, there may have been some people with multiple disabilities who may have been categorised as having a mental illness, learning or physical disabilities rather than in the categories "deaf" or "hard of hearing".

Registration of blindness is voluntary and so the registers cannot be thought of as providing a definitive number of blind and partially sighted people. In addition, issuing of guidance such as that mentioned above may impact on the numbers and therefore, figures for 2003 (first collection after the guidance was issued) have also been provided in the following tables.

The following tables show the total number of people in England registered as blind or partially sighted who also have an additional hearing related disability.

Number of people registered "blind" who also have a hearing impairment, as at 31 March 1997, 2003 and 2008, England[1]

	Rounded numbers with additional disability of			
		Of which:		
	Deaf	*with speech*	*without speech*	*Hard of hearing*
1997	1,010	280	735	2,835
2003	2,825	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	5,640
2008	3,565	2,830	735	8,685

[1] Estimates have not been made where a council has not been able to provide the information separately for those with an additional disability, therefore the table contains the total only from those councils from which returns were received.

[2] Data not available.

Notes:

1. Figures for 1997 are based on actual returns received from 85 councils out of 119. Figures for 2003 are based on actual returns received from 131 councils out of 150. Figures for 2008 are based on actual returns received from 149 councils out of 150.
2. Data rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

SSDA 902

Number of people registered partially sighted who also have a hearing impairment, as at 31 March 1997, 2003 and 2008, England[1]

	Rounded numbers with additional disability of			
		Of which:		
	Deaf	*with speech*	*without speech*	*Hard of hearing*
1997	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	[2]n/a
2003	1,830	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	5,205

Number of people registered partially sighted who also have a hearing impairment, as at 31 March 1997, 2003 and 2008, England[2]

	Rounded numbers with additional disability of			
		Of which:		
	Deaf	with speech	without speech	Hard of hearing
2008	3,710	2,205	1,505	9,315

[1] Estimates have not been made where a council has not been able to provide the information separately for those with an additional disability, therefore the table contains the total only from those councils from which returns were received.

[2] Data not available.

Notes:

1. Figures for 2003 are based on actual returns received from 127 councils out of 150. Figures for 2008 are based on actual returns received from 149 councils out of 150.
2. Data rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

SSDA 902

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many level *(a)* three, *(b)* two and *(c)* one care beds there were in hospitals for (i) adults, (ii) children and (iii) neo-natal patients in England in each year since 1997; [283926]

(2) how many hospitals in England have established *(a)* adult, *(b)* child and *(c)* neo-natal intensive care units in each year since 1997; [283927]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the number of critical care beds provided by NHS trusts in England. [284276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not held centrally regarding the opening or closing of units or of intensive care units (ICUs) that merge with high dependency units (HDUs) to form combined units.

This is a matter for local determination in the light of changing service patterns, elective and emergency case mix and anticipated activity.

The number of ICU level 3 beds for adults, children and neonates from 1997 and HDU level 2 for adults beds since 1999 is shown in tables which have been placed in the Library. Data on level 1 beds, and data on level 2 beds for children and neonates are not collected centrally.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general and *(b)* specialist wards were in use according to data from Estates Return Information collection returns for each NHS organisation in each reporting year since 1997, specifying the organisation code in each case. [284016]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Since 2002-03, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on the average total number of general and specialist wards in use over the reporting year, through the Estates Returns Information Collection. The available data for each year since 2002-03 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Intensive Care: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultants in intensive care medicine and *(b)* specialist intensive care nurses were working in the NHS in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [284198]

Ann Keen: Neither intensive care unit (ICU) nurses or ICU consultants are separately identified within the NHS Workforce Census and therefore this information is not collected centrally.

Kidneys: Injuries

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a code of practice on the identification and auditing of the incidence and outcomes associated with acute kidney injury. [284678]

Ann Keen: We have received the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) report. The National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, Dr. Donal O'Donoghue, is working with stakeholders to develop an action plan for acute kidney injury.

Lung Cancer

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for lung cancer in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan area, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 2001. [283966]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available centrally.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what further steps his Department is taking to improve the provision of treatment to those who have been diagnosed with or treated for lung cancer; and if he will make a statement; [283967]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of support provided to those affected by lung cancer; and if he will make a statement. [283968]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on the use of erlotinib for the treatment of lung cancer. NICE is also currently preparing guidance on the use of pemetrexed, topotecan and vandetanib for the treatment of lung cancer as well as further guidance on the use of erlotinib.

In 2005, NICE issued clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, which addressed supportive and palliative care for lung cancer patients. An updated version of the guidelines is due to be published in 2011. These guidelines complement the guidance on Improving Outcomes in Lung Cancer, published in 1998, which has since been fully implemented across the national health service.

Alongside NICE'S work programme on lung cancer, the Department will shortly be reconvening the Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma Advisory Group (LCAMAG) to further advise the National Cancer Director, Professor

Mike Richards, and the department on the development and delivery of high quality services for lung cancer patients in England.

In addition, the National Lung Cancer Audit, part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcome Programme, helps clinicians improve the quality and outcomes of lung cancer services. It provides comparative data about the incidence, nature and treatment of lung cancer, with the aim of improving patient care and outcomes.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for lung cancer in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hemel Hempstead, *(d)* the South East of England and *(e)* England in each year since 2001. [284558]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available centrally.

Medical Treatments: Radioactive Materials

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to secure an adequate supply of medical isotopes. [282473]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The radioisotope supply shortage is a worldwide problem. There are only five reactors worldwide, none of which are located within the United Kingdom, that produce molybdenum-99. Molybdenum-99 is the base material used by UK sites to produce technetium-99m which in turn is used for most nuclear medicine imaging procedures.

The Department is working with key stakeholders such as the Health Protection Agency (HPA), British Nuclear Medicine Society and national health service hospitals to find short and long-term solutions to the shortage. The NHS is embracing the adaptations needed to continue to provide patient care including, maximising activity to fit in with the supply of radioisotopes and undertaking alternative procedures where possible.

In addition, the Department is taking a number of proactive steps in securing adequate supply of medical isotopes both in the short and long-term.

The Department is communicating with the three suppliers of molybdenum-99 and technetium-99m to the UK market to ensure that we maximise patient access during this time of limited supply.

Through its work with the HPA, the Department has asked the Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee to provide the Department with advice on sustainable service delivery models for nuclear medicine examinations using different isotopes and scanning systems and provide advice on the future requirements for technetium-99m imaging to inform discussions on the longer term supply options.

Mental Health: Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19-year-olds in each young offenders institution have been diagnosed with mental health problems as a result of their detention. [282918]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department, or central Government.

Mentally Incapacitated: Community Treatment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1228W, on the mentally incapacitated: community treatment, how many second opinions for treatment under supervised community treatment have been *(a)* requested and *(b)* provided under the Mental Health Act 1983 since 1 April 2009. [284223]

Phil Hope: The Care Quality Commission received 1,195 second opinion requests in the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009 for patients subject to supervised community treatment, 64 of which have subsequently been withdrawn. As of 1 July 2009, 242 of the second opinion requests received in that period were recorded as having had all action completed.

As of 1 July 2009, 527 second opinion visits for patients subject to supervised community treatment were recorded as having all action completed in the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009. Some of those 527 visits will relate to second opinion requests received prior to 1 April 2009.

As of 1 July 2009, the overall number of second opinion requests received for patients subject to supervised community treatment for the period 3 November 2008 to 30 June 2009 was 2,868, 267 of which were subsequently withdrawn. Of the second opinion requests received in that period, 1,393 were recorded as having had all action completed.

Information on the number of second opinions given but not yet recorded as completed is not available. The figures will change as further information is received.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects information to be available on the number of community treatment orders (CTOs) that have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* revoked under the Mental Health Act 1993; and how many patients have been (i) recalled to hospital while on a CTO and (ii) discharged from a CTO in the latest period for which figures are available. [284224]

Phil Hope: Information on these subjects is being collected in England by the NHS Information Centre by means of the mental health minimum dataset and central statistical return KP90 (admissions, changes in status and detentions under the Mental Health Act). It is expected that information for the year 2008-09 will be published in November 2009.

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 109W, on NHS: accountancy, what progress has been made in establishing the likely effects on the revenue of NHS organisations of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards from April 2009. [283906]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National health service organisations have prepared their 2009-10 financial plans on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis. The Department has established that the main effects on the revenue of NHS organisations arising from the adoption of IFRS relates to the accounting for private finance initiative and accounting for local improvement finance trust schemes and the accounting treatment of lease arrangements.

We are currently considering the Treasury Consolidated Budgeting Guidance published in June 2009, which deals with aspects of IFRS accounting, to determine how it should be applied to NHS organisations. We are also in discussion with the Audit Commission around the likely affect on the revenue of NHS organisations.

NHS: Assets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* gross internal floor area, *(b)* unoccupied internal floor area and *(c)* non-patient occupied internal floor area was, according to data from Estates Return Information Collection returns, for each NHS organisation in each year since 1997. [284015]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Since 2000-01, the Department has collected annual data on internal floor areas from national health service trusts through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). Data collection on each NHS organisation's gross internal floor area and unoccupied internal floor area first began in 2000-01, with non-patient occupied floor area beginning in 2002-03.

The available data for each year since 2000-01 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

NHS: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS staff-to-patient ratio was in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [283892]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the NHS Chief Executive's Annual Report for 2008-09, whether the £15 to £20 billion in efficiency savings the NHS is expected to plan for in the financial years 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be made available for expenditure in the NHS; [284269]

(2) what baseline for spending is being used against which to measure the £15 to £20 billion of efficiency savings for which the NHS is being asked to plan between the financial years 2011-12 and 2013-14; and what plans have been made for achieving such savings in each *(a)* financial year and *(b)* NHS organisation. [284272]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Decisions on funding and investment will be made as part of the next spending review. The baseline for efficiency savings in the next spending review period will be 2010-11.

NHS: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS staff-to-patient ratio was in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [284557]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS institutions were assessed by the Healthcare Commission as being *(a)* compliant and *(b)* non-compliant with the Standards for Better Health Core Standard C4c in 2008-09. [284431]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is contained in the complete data set of unvalidated core standard declarations for 2008-09 that the Care Quality Commission made available on 18 June 2009; a copy has been placed in the Library. The Care Quality Commission will publish final validated declaration results alongside the annual health check results in October 2009.

Nutrition

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutritionists *(a)* have been employed by the NHS in each year since 1997 and *(b)* were employed by each NHS organisation in the most recent year for which figures are available. [283934]

Ann Keen: Nutritionists are not separately identified within the NHS workforce census and therefore this information is not collected centrally.

Workforce planning, including training, in the national health service is managed and led at a local level by the strategic health authorities (SHAs) taking into account the national policy direction.

Local NHS organisations are best placed to determine the levels of service and resource required to meet the health needs of the local population.

Osteoporosis: Health Education

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to inform *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* health professionals about (i) osteoporosis, (ii) bone health and (iii) fragility fractures in the last three years. [284409]

Phil Hope: The NHS Choices website provides advice on osteoporosis, bone health and fragility fractures, suitable for the general public and those newly diagnosed with osteoporosis, at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/osteoporosis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

More detailed information, suitable for health professionals, is available on the NHS Evidence website at:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/Search.aspx?t=osteoporosis

Social Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1434W, on social services, for what reason his Department did not publish the Green Paper on care and support reform in June 2009. [284746]

Phil Hope: Reforming the care and support system is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us all to help create a care and support system capable of supporting people well into the 21st century so it is important that we take the time to get this right. However, the Green Paper will be published shortly.

Solihull Hospital: Maternity Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* high-risk, *(b)* complicated and *(c)* premature births occurred at Solihull Hospital in the last 12 months; and what proportion of all births at the hospital each category represented in that period. [283221]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Solihull hospital is part of Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. Information on the number and percentage of deliveries at this organisation for 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

*Number and percentage of deliveries where the gestation length at the time of delivery was between 0-36 weeks (premature), 37+ weeks or unknown at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust (*RR1-X) in 2007-08*

National health service hospitals, England	*Number*	*Percentage*
Total deliveries at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	10,753	100
Deliveries that occurred between 0-36 weeks of gestation (premature)	178	1.7
Deliveries that occurred 37+ weeks of gestation	2,445	22.7
Deliveries with an unknown length of gestation recorded	8,130	75.6

Notes:

1. The high proportion of deliveries with an unknown length of gestation recorded needs to be taken into account when interpreting the rates of deliveries for each gestation group.

2. *Length of gestation:* This field shows the number of completed weeks of gestation according to the World Health Organisation definition, which specifies time from the first day of the last menstrual period. If this date is not reliable, an estimate is provided. This item appears for each baby on multiple birth delivery records; 0-36 weeks premature birth; 37+ weeks (includes post term births); and unknown.

3. *Finished consultant episode (FCE):* An FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. However, the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year. Maternity events taking place in either NHS hospitals or in non-NHS hospitals funded by the NHS will be recorded as ordinary 'delivery' or 'birth' episodes. 'Other delivery events' are delivery events other than those resulting in delivery or birth episodes under NHS funding or in any other facility supplied under a service agreement with the NHS.

4. *Ungrossed data:* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. *Data quality:* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. *Hospital providers:* A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or PCT). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). TCs (also known as diagnostic centres) provide elective (planned) surgery for a range of conditions, mainly for day surgery or short-term hospital stay patients. Some TCs are attached to hospital trusts and HES enables data for these to be separately identified from the rest of the health care provider's data. It does this by adding TC to the trust code; if there is more than one per trust, 'T1', 'T2', 'T3' etc. are suggested unless already in use by the trust. Activity performed in the remainder of the trust is identified by the health care provider code being followed by an 'X'. *Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Statement of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1052-63, on swine flu update, with which companies his Department holds advance purchase agreements for pandemic-specific vaccines; how much he expects to be spent on these vaccines; and from which budget funds for such expenditure will be drawn in the next 12 months. [illegible]

Gillian Merron: The advance purchase agreements are with Glaxo Smith Kline and Baxter. The costs of the advance purchase agreements are £155.4 million over four years. Vaccine costs are commercial in confidence. Expenditure on dealing with swine flu will be met from within existing departmental budgets.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many swine flu information leaflets have been *(a)* printed and *(b)* distributed; and how much his Department has spent on their printing and distribution to date. [283924]

Gillian Merron: The Department has:

produced around 31.6 million swine flu information leaflets, including foreign language translations and alternative formats for disabled people; and

distributed over 29,136,529 leaflets.

The Department has spent £4,470,406 to date on production and distribution.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates his Department's National Director for Flu Resilience has met representatives of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities to discuss swine flu preparedness in the last three months; and if he will place a copy of the minutes of each such meeting in the Library. [283932]

Gillian Merron: The National Director NHS Flu Resilience has been in post since 5 May 2009.

The National Director NHS Flu Resilience has engaged with each NHS Chief Executive through the National NHS Chief Executive's Conference on the 20 May. There are no minutes of the conference.

In addition, he has personally briefed each of the 10 strategic health authority chief executives at meetings of the NHS management boards on 13 May and 11 June. A summary of the meeting is usually produced within three months of the meeting taking place, but is not yet available. A copy of the summary will be placed in the Library once it is finalised.

On 4 June, the National Director met with all 10 strategic health authority flu lead directors; there are no formal minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital patient specimens have been submitted to Health Protection Agency regional laboratories in order to be tested for swine flu to date. [283936]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency's regional laboratory network has tested 23,395 samples up to the end of 30 June 2009. 83 of the samples that tested positive for swine flu came from hospitalised patients.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have accessed NHS Direct's online swine flu symptom checker to date; and how much was spent developing this service. [283937]

Gillian Merron: The number of people who have accessed NHS Direct's on-line cold and flu symptom checker (which has included swine flu since 27 April 2009) is 707,583 (as of 30 June 2009).

The symptom checker service is integrated into NHS Direct's contact centre operations and is used for a wider range of topics than just colds and flu. The approximate cost of developing the whole suite of tools (not just specifically the colds and flu element) was £367,000.

Swine Flu: Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 387-88W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of the research. [282154]

Gillian Merron: The Department periodically publishes summaries of the research it commissions on its website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/
Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/
Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/index.htm

A summary of the research to check the receipt of the swine flu information leaflet will be published there in due course. We will also place a copy of the research in the Library on publication.

The tracking research to check awareness of the information campaign is still ongoing and the findings are therefore not yet known.

Transplant Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who were waiting for organ transplants had been waiting for longer than three weeks in *(a)* Test Valley Borough and *(b)* Southampton on the latest date for which figures are available. [283318]

Ann Keen: The following table shows patients currently listed and waiting over three weeks in Test Valley borough (postcodes SP10 and 11).

Organ(s)	*Number of patients listed*
Kidney	7
Kidney/pancreas	2

The following table shows patients currently listed and waiting over three weeks in Southampton (postcodes SO14-19).

Organ(s)	*Number of patients listed*
Kidney	39

Treatment Centres: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which independent sector treatment centres were assessed by the Healthcare Commission as being *(a)* compliant and *(b)* non-compliant with the National Minimum Standard A11 in 2008-09. [284432]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission has informed us that three independent sector treatment centres were assessed against standard A11 of the Independent Health Care: National Minimum Standards by the Healthcare Commission during 2008-09. Of those, Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre and Bodmin Independent Treatment Centre were found to have met the standard. Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre was found to have almost met the standard.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

15. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will enable local authorities to finance expenditure from their projected future efficiency savings. [284353]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities can already finance expenditure from projected future efficiency savings provided they are satisfied the expenditure falls within the terms of the Prudential system. This allows local authorities to borrow for any capital expenditure without Government consent, provided that they can afford the borrowing costs.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the funding allocated to his Department was allocated to local authorities in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [283995]

Mr. Malik: The following tables give the amounts and proportions of my Department's funding to local authorities in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Main programme, departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

All figures (£ million)

Financial years	*Communities and local government DEL*	*Of which: funding to local authorities*	*Proportion of funding to local authorities (percentage)*
2008-09	11,412	5,339	47
2009-10	12,895	5,726	44

Note:
Figures exclude administration costs

Local government, departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

All figures (£ million)

Financial years	*Local government DEL*	*Of which: funding to local authorities*	*Proportion of funding to local authorities (percentage)*
2008-09	24,913	24,568	99
2009-10	25,737	25,506	99

Note:
Proportion of funding allocated to local authorities in 2008-09 are outturn figures for both main and local government departmental expenditure limits.

Supporting People Programme

16. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on local authority provision of support for vulnerable people of proposed changes to the Supporting People programme. [284354]

Mr. Ian Austin: During 2008, CLG worked with 15 local authorities, providers, service users, and stakeholders to gather evidence about the potential impact of removing the ring fence for Supporting People. During this period, there were no serious concerns raised and feedback from the 15 authorities has shown innovative jointly commissioned services can provide better outcomes for vulnerable people.

Business Rates: Ports

17. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations his Department has received on the effect of the new system of retrospective business rates on companies within ports. [284356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department has received a number of written representations directly from some port businesses, and also from some constituency MPs where there is a port.

Social Housing

18. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to allow local authorities more discretion over criteria for allocation of social housing. [284357]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will bring forward proposals within the next few weeks.

19. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further steps his Department is taking to ensure that a greater proportion of social housing meets the Decent Homes standard; and if he will make a statement. [284358]

Mr. Ian Austin: The day to day management of the Decent Homes Programme transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on 1 December 2008. The HCA is working with the Tenant Services Authority and with local authorities and other social landlords through the Single Conversation process and other contact, in order to develop and support strategies for delivery.

Affordable Housing

20. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the development of innovative financing schemes to support the purchase of affordable housing. [284359]

Mr. Denham: The Government's HomeBuy scheme helps purchasers who cannot afford to buy a home on the open market. We have recently introduced two innovative products into the HomeBuy range in response to the current difficulties which potential buyers are experiencing as a result of the restrictions on the global supply of credit.

Our Rent to HomeBuy product allows households to rent a home from a housing association at below market rent for up to five years, enabling them to save for a deposit. The HomeBuy Direct scheme provides purchasers with an equity loan of up to 30 per cent. to purchase a newly built home from participating developers on specific sites. The loan is funded jointly by the developer and Government.

Commonhold and Leasehold Act 2002

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 999W, on the Commonhold and Leasehold Act 2002, what informal discussions his Department has had with local authority officers on sections 152 and 153 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Act 2002 in the last two years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's record of each such discussion. [284036]

Mr. Ian Austin: Officials attended the re-constituted London leasehold officers' forum on 6 January where an update on section 152 was provided. A meeting has since taken place with a working group from the forum on 12 May to discuss concerns and clarify certain proposal for the regulations. Officials continue to work with the forum to ensure that the regulations will benefit local authority leaseholders but without creating unnecessary burdens and costs.

There was also the formal consultation exercise carried out in July 2007 to which some local authorities responded.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local planning authorities on the use of Article 4 directions in relation to conservation areas. [283772]

Mr. Ian Austin: Guidance on the use of article 4 directions in relation to conservation areas is provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and in DoE Circular 9/95. A consultation document on a new Planning Policy Statement to replace PPG 15 will be issued shortly.

Council Housing Finance Review

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on his Department's review of the Housing Revenue Account; and if he will make a statement. [283912]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Minister for Housing announced his conclusions from the review of council housing finance in a written ministerial statement laid before Parliament on 30 June. A consultation document will be published before summer recess.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of families on council housing waiting lists in each local authority in England. [284911]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1039W, on council tax: valuation, what the equivalent figures are for 2008-09. [283632]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A copy of the information referred to has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1035-36W, on council tax: valuation, how many properties were identified by the Valuation Office Agency as potentially having consequentials prior to the discussion at the Programme Board. [283633]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No work was undertaken prior to the discussion at the programme board to identify the number of consequentials.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties had their council tax band changed as a result of a council tax appeal made by their residents or by residents of a property in the vicinity in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [283637]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Against approximately 22.7 million entries now in council tax valuation lists in England the numbers of valid proposals which were received by the VOA in each year and which, when settled, resulted in a band change to the subject property are as follows:

	Valid proposals received by VOA in each year, resulting in a band change to subject property
2005-06	9,447
2006-07	11,430
2007-08	11,868
2008-09	6,136

Information about re-bandings following a valid proposal made by residents of a property in the vicinity can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279420]

Mr. Malik: All information is for the last financial year (April 2008 to March 2009).

(a) The then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Independent
The Daily Express
The Financial Times
The Daily Telegraph
The Evening Standard (West End Final Extra)
The Evening Standard (West End Final)
The Evening Standard (1st Edition)
The Eastern Eye
The Daily Jang
The Jewish Chronicle
The Voice
New Nation
International Herald Tribune
Muslim Weekly

The then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) received the following periodicals:

The Economist
The Spectator
The New Statesman
Prospect
The Municipal Journal
The Local Government Chronicle
The London Review of Books
Tribune
The Times Literary Supplement

The then Minister for Housing, the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) and her predecessor the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Independent
The Daily Express
The Financial Times
The Daily Telegraph
The Evening Standard (West End Final)
Yorkshire Post

The then Minister for Housing, the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) and her predecessor the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) received the following periodicals

The Economist
The Spectator
The New Statesman

The then Minister for Local Government, the right hon. Member for Wentworth (John Healey) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Financial Times
The Evening Standard (West End Final)
Yorkshire Post

The then Minister for Local Government, the right hon. Member for Wentworth (John Healey) received the following periodicals:

The Economist
The Spectator
The New Statesman
The Municipal Journal
The Local Government Chronicle
Tribune

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (the noble Baroness Lady Andrews) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Independent
The Daily Express
The Financial Times
The Daily Telegraph
The Evening Standard (1st Edition)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (the noble Baroness Lady Andrews) received the following periodicals:

The Economist
The Spectator
The New Statesman
Prospect
The Local Government Chronicle
Regeneration and Renewal
Planning Magazine

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) and his predecessor the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Daily Telegraph
The Evening Standard (West End Final Extra)
The Evening Standard (1st Edition)
The Eastern Eye
The Daily Jang
The Jewish Chronicle

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) and his predecessor the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) received the following periodicals:

The New Statesman
The Municipal Journal
The Local Government Chronicle
Building

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) received the following newspapers:

The Daily Mail
The Daily Mirror
The Guardian
The Times
The Sun
The Independent
The Financial Times
The Daily Telegraph
The Evening Standard (1st Edition)
The German Times (complimentary copy)

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) received the following periodicals:

The Economist
Municipal Journal

(b) The total costs recorded by the Department for newspapers and periodicals for all ministerial offices in the last financial year was £7,184.85.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the planned change in expenditure by his Department is in each of the next three years, expressed in *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage terms; [283921]

(2) how much funding has been allocated to his Department in each of the next three years. [284265]

Mr. Malik: The following tables set out the Department's allocation for the remaining two years of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period and the planned changes in expenditure for those years.

Main programme, departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

All figures (£ million)

	Financial year	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Resource	4,272	4,193
Capital	8,623	6,348
Total	12,895	10,541

Note:
Figures exclude administration costs.

These figures reflect over £1.5 billion of capital brought forward from 2010-11 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 through the September housing package and pre-Budget report. In addition to some reprofiling in 2009-10 and 2010-11, £555 million of capital was announced at Budget 2009.

Local government, departmental expenditure limit (DEL)

All figures (£ million)

	Financial year	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Resource	25,596	26,296
Capital	106	92
Total	25,702	26,388

For the 2007 CSR period, the planned changed in expenditure for the remaining years is as follows:

	Main programme	*Local government*
2009-10 (£ million)	12,895	25,702
2010-11 (£ million)	10,541	26,388
Cash term (£ million)	-2,354	+686
Percentage term	-18.3	+2.7

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next three years. [283994]

Mr. Malik: Departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgets for CLG's executive agencies and executive NDPBs planned for the CSR period in years 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

£000

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Executive Agencies		
Fire Service College	0	0
Planning Inspectorate	56,697	52,594
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0	0
Executive NDPBs		
Community Development Foundation	1,706	1,590
Firebuy	1,582	0
Homes and Communities Agency	5,218,435	3,969,121
Independent Housing Ombudsman	0	0
Leasehold Advisory Service	1,325	1,450
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	46,300	46,500
Standards Board for England	8,275	7,869
Tenant Services Authority	35,623	35,173
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	36,200	35,600
Valuation Tribunal Service	11,439	10,935
West Northants Development Corporation	16,741	16,484

Fire Services: Equality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to fire authorities for the purposes of meeting diversity and equality recruitment targets in each of the last five years. [283999]

Mr. Malik: No funding has been allocated to fire and rescue authorities for the purposes of meeting equality and diversity recruitment targets in each of the last five financial years.

Communities and Local Government has allocated £2 million in total in capital grant for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to those fire and rescue authorities which make a commitment to recruitment targets both for women in the operational sector and for minority ethnic staff across all sectors of their workforce higher than those required by the Fire and Rescue Service equality and diversity strategy. Those fire and rescue authorities that have qualified for capital grant have committed to meet targets by 2013 for a minimum of 18 per cent. of new entrants to the operational service to be women and for recruitment of minority ethnic staff across the whole workforce to be at 2 - 5 per cent. above the minority ethnic representation in the local working population.

Communities and Local Government has allocated £34,482 in capital grant for 2009-10 to each of 29 fire and rescue authorities that have committed to the higher recruitment targets.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements his Department has put in place for contingency fire cover in the event of a national fire fighters' strike. [284338]

Mr. Malik: The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 lays down duties for specified "category 1 responders", including fire and rescue authorities, to assess, plan and advise in relation to emergencies. For a fire and rescue authority, an emergency includes a period of industrial action. Therefore the provision of contingency fire cover within a fire and rescue authority in the event of industrial action, is the responsibility of that fire and rescue authority, whether the dispute is local or national in extent.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will request the Office of Fair Trading to investigate allegations of secret commission payments being made to estate agents by home information pack providers. [283733]

John Healey: The Office of Fair Trading are already undertaking a major study of the home buying and selling process, including competition within the industry and whether the interest of consumers are best served.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local authorities will have in relation to housing capital receipts under changes to the Housing Revenue Account system proposed by his Department. [284237]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Minister for Housing announced in the House on 30 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 7WS that he intended to publish a consultation document before the summer recess. This document will set out proposals to end the pooling of all housing capital receipts.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many keyworkers in each category have purchased a home under each of the HomeBuy schemes to date; and if he will make a statement. [283429]

John Healey: The following table sets out the number of key workers in each category recorded as having purchased a home under the relevant homebuy schemes between April 2006 and March 2009.

Key worker category	*New build homebuy*	*Open market homebuy*
Health	1,171	1,820
Education	854	2,105
Community safety	533	1,269
Local authority key workers	146	218
Total	2,704	5,412

Source: The Homes and Communities Agency's Information Management System.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* private developers and *(b)* registered social landlords made applications for HomeBuy Direct funding during the most recent round of bidding; [283433]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 883W, on housing: construction, what timetable has been set for publication of information on the bids received by the Homes and Communities Agency for funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme; [283463]

(3) pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 883W, on housing: construction, how many bidders for funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have applied for *(a)* equity and *(b)* loan investment support; [284116]

(4) pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 883W, on housing: construction, how many of the bids received for funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme were from *(a)* arms length management organisations, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* private sector developers; [284118]

(5) how many applications for support under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have been received from organisations operating in each region; how many projects such bids relate to; and how much funding organisations in each region have bid for to date under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme; [284120]

(6) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total monetary value of grants bid for under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme was. [284121]

John Healey: Information on the bids received by the HCA for funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme will be published on the HCA website at the end of July.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the most recent round of bidding for HomeBuy Direct funding took place; and over what period he expects the next such round to take place. [283434]

John Healey: The Kickstart Housing Development Programme includes an element of HomeBuy Direct funding. The bidding round was launched on 8 May 2009 and closed on 8 June 2009.

The Kickstart Housing Development Programme has been extended as announced in the Housing Pledge—part of Building Britain's Future and as a result there will be a further bidding round closing in autumn 2009. Details will be published shortly on the HCA website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* percentage of equity purchased under the Social HomeBuy scheme has been to date. [283435]

Mr. Ian Austin: On the question about average monetary value, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 June 2009, *Official Report,* columns 994-95W.

The average percentage of equity purchased under the social homebuy scheme is 85 per cent. for 2006-07, 89 per cent. for 2007-08 and 84 per cent. for 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the HomeBuy Direct scheme to date. [283440]

John Healey: As at the end of June the Department had spent £4,734,698 on HomeBuy Direct.

Housing: Repossession Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* studio apartments, *(b)* one-bedroom, *(c)* two-bedroom and *(d)* three or more bedroomed properties to have been repossessed in each of the last five years. [283439]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial

Services Authority (FSA). However neither source has data on the number of bedrooms of the property being repossessed.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2262

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRRystatistics/

Influenza

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the roles are of *(a)* local and *(b)* regional resilience forums in preparations for an influenza pandemic. [283843]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) are the principal mechanism for the coordination of multi-agency planning at local level. Membership includes all Category 1 responders (such as emergency services, local authorities and health bodies) which are subject to a range of civil protection duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. As such, LRFs are responsible for planning for the multi-agency management of an influenza pandemic at local level, working closely with primary care trusts.

Regional Resilience Forums (RRFs) allow key responders to plan together and improve the coordination and flow of information across and between regions and the centre. In preparation for wide-scale civil emergencies such as an influenza pandemic, RRFs would work closely with strategic health authorities to provide an information channel between central Government planning and local tiers, identify issues that cannot be resolved locally and provide appropriate feedback.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public bodies are responsible for overseeing the preparations made by local authorities for an influenza pandemic. [283884]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Audit Commission is responsible for monitoring the performance of local authorities. This includes ensuring that they meet their statutory requirements of which preparing for emergencies is one. (The Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004, requires local authorities to assess the risk of emergencies occurring and to maintain plans for managing these risks.)

The Audit Commission works with partner inspectorates (i.e. HM Inspectorate for Constabularies, the Care Quality Inspectorate, HM Inspectorate of Prisons; HM Inspectorate of Probation and Ofsted) to assess the performance of local services in England through the Comprehensive Area Assessment. For those organisations that are inspected both sector specific and multi-agency performance is assessed. This includes assessment against National Indicator 37, which assesses how aware the general public are of what to do in the event of an emergency.

The CCA Implementation team, within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat at the Cabinet Office, is responsible for running a CCA performance development and compliance work stream. An 'Expectation and Indicators of Good Practice Set for Category 1 and 2 Responders' has been published which sets out what is expected of those responsible for preparing for emergencies (including local authorities) and outlines mandatory requirements. This can be accessed through the United Kingdom resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/publications.aspx

Landlords: Registration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the annual fee to be charged in respect of the proposed national registration scheme for landlords; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of that fee on the levels of rent charged by landlords. [284001]

Mr. Ian Austin: Work on our proposals is at too early a stage for precise estimates to be made.

Local Government: Billing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means his Department intends to measure whether local authorities are meeting guidelines for the payment of invoices within 10 days. [283587]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In October 2008 the Prime Minister announced that central Government Departments will pay their suppliers as soon as possible and within 10 days. This commitment has also attracted support from the wider public sector. The Government are now working with the Regional Economic Fora (which provide a strategic approach to coordinating economic policies across Government in the regions, are made up of key regional bodies and are all either chaired or co-chaired by regional Ministers) to identify payment best practice across local authorities and the NHS and encourage these areas to commit to the prompt payment code.

Local government has a strong track record of paying suppliers on time, with Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) data from 2007-08 showing that 95 per cent. of undisputed invoices were paid on time by local authorities. A Local Government Association survey in January 2009 showed that 32 per cent. of local authorities were making payments in 10 days or less, and a further 20 per cent. within 20 days.

BVPI's have now been replaced by the single national indicator set which are outcome-based measurements of performance. The Government have committed to only performance managing local authorities within these agreed indicators and targets and as the 10-day payment policy for local authorities is not in the national indicator set, we will not be asking local authorities to report their performance. Instead, the focus on businesses in the national indicator set is on business growth and sustainability. In that context we know anecdotally, and through other surveys, that local authorities are targeting those businesses in most in need of prompt payment and are working on a range of wider measures to increase cash flow, simplify and increase the transparency and take up of public procurement opportunities particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations his Department has received on the effect of the new system of retrospective business rates on companies within ports. [284350]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department has received a number of written representations directly from some port businesses, and also from some constituency MPs where there is a port.

Non-domestic Rates: Wind Power

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the rateable value per megawatt of generation capacity of *(a)* on-shore and *(b)* off-shore wind farms (i) is in 2009-10 and (ii) is expected to be in 2010-11. [283634]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The rateable value for onshore wind farms in the 2005 rating lists ranges between £5,000 and £12,500 rateable value per megawatt of generation capacity.

Individual draft rateable values for the 2010 rating lists will be published for consultation by the Valuation Office Agency at the end of September 2009.

Offshore wind farms located beyond mean low water mark are not rateable.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of on-shore energy projects will have their planning application dealt with by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Marine Management Organisation and *(c)* the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [283631]

John Healey: The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will deal with projects which meet the thresholds in Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, once these are commenced. Where there is relevant national policy statement, the IPC will examine and determine the application; where no relevant national policy statement is in place, the IPC will examine the application and then report with recommendations to the relevant Secretary of State. On-shore projects falling below those thresholds will in most cases require planning permission from the relevant local planning authority.

We would not normally expect an application for a marine licence to be made to the Marine Management Organisation in relation to on-shore projects.

Private Rented Housing: Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department plans to provide to *(a)* Pendle Borough Council and *(b)* other housing providers in Pendle to improve standards of private sector housing in 2009-10. [284339]

Mr. Ian Austin: Pendle borough council was allocated £1,587,000 (one million, five hundred and eighty seven thousand pounds) in 2009-10 to improve private sector housing. Allocations are paid to local authorities through the regional housing pot as un-ring fenced capital grants based on recommendations made by the regional housing boards.

Public Bodies: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to public bodies on allocation of services to Travellers. [283782]

Mr. Malik: The Department has not issued any guidance to public bodies on the allocation of services to Travellers.

Public Lavatories: Disabled

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from groups representing disabled people on the adequacy of the level of provision by local authorities of public conveniences with disabled access. [284433]

Mr. Malik: The noble Lady, Baroness Andrews met representatives of the Changing Places Consortium on 13 January 2009 to discuss their campaign to promote specially equipped toilets for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Local authority provision of such toilets was discussed. The updated British Standard 'BS8300 Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the need of disabled people—Code of Practice', was published in March 2009, which includes expanded guidance on the design and provision of Changing Places facilities.

In the last six months, this Department has received letters from members of the public about various aspects of local authority public toilet provision, but none from groups representing the interests of disabled people.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed new integrated regional plans are expected to include regional transport plans. [283636]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 372W.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to change his planned expenditure on the Decent Homes programme for 2009-10 and 2010-11. [284165]

John Healey: The £1.5 billion Housing Pledge will provide additional expenditure for new affordable housing and related housing market provision as set out in Building Britain's Future. It is funded through contributions from other Government Departments and reprioritisation of CLG programmes.

Tenant Services Authority: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on the Tenant Services Authority: public relations, for what reason Engage was commissioned. [283732]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1549W.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of planning cases relating to Travellers were determined by the Planning Inspectorate in favour of those Travellers in the latest year for which figures are available. [283998]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Planning Inspectorate does not classify cases relating to Travellers separately and could not do so without incurring disproportionate costs.

Waste Disposal: Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on facilitating planning applications for waste facilities; and if he will make a statement. [284637]

Mr. Ian Austin: This Department has received representations from the Environmental Services Association in relation to the Killian Pretty review on land use planning. Positive planning has an important role in delivering sustainable waste management through the development of appropriate strategies for growth, regeneration and the prudent use of resources; and by providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to decide on the request from 20 parish councils of 9 January 2009 that he call in the planning application for the construction of an energy from waste facility at Ardley in Oxfordshire. [284642]

Mr. Ian Austin: Oxfordshire county council has confirmed that the application will be referred to the Secretary of State under the Departures Direction if their Members resolve to approve planning permission. Oxfordshire county council advises that the application is not expected to be considered by Members until September at the earliest.

The Secretary of State will consider all the information, including all representations, such as those received from the 20 parish councils, if the application is referred to him by the local planning authority.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Al-Muhajiroun

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* other authorities in dealing with members of al-Muhajiroun and related groups; and if he will make a statement. [282248]

Mr. Hanson: No formal guidance has been provided to forces or other authorities in dealing with members of al-Muhajiroun.

Al-Muhajiroun is not currently a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000. However, two of its successor groups—Al Gurabaa and Saved/Saviour Sect—are.

The recently published CONTEST strategy document states that the Government will take action against those who defend terrorism and violent extremism. We will also continue to challenge views that jeopardise community cohesion

Alcohol Disorder Zones

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* police and *(b)* local authorities on the establishment of alcohol disorder zones. [284832]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) are used as a last resort to enable local authorities and the police to tackle high levels of alcohol related nuisance or disorder in a specified zone. Local authorities publish a voluntary action plan to reduce such nuisance or disorder. If the action plan is not sufficiently implemented, the local authority may charge certain alcohol license holders to pay for additional enforcement services.

Guidance for ADZs was updated in December 2008 and it is suitable for both police and local authorities. This guidance can be viewed at the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/alcohol-disorder-zone-guidance1?view=Binary

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the operation of alcohol disorder zones. [284835]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has received no recent formal representations on the operation of alcohol disorder zones (ADZs).

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the London Borough of Bexley aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 24 years old have been (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for alcohol-related behaviour in each of the last five years. [271069]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons cautioned for alcohol related behaviour offences in Greater London, which includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, by age group, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 1. The cautions atistics relate to persons for whom these offences were e principal offences for which they were dealt with. Then a defendant has been cautioned for two or more fences at the same time the principal offence is the ore serious offence.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates ourts for alcohol related behaviour in Greater London, age group, from 2003 to 2007 are given in table 2. he statistics in table 2 relate to persons for whom these fences were the principal offence for which they were ealt with. For example, when a defendant has been und guilty of two or more offences the principal ffence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is nposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two more offences, the offence selected is the offence for hich the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) may also be sued by the police for certain alcohol related offences ich as being drunk and disorderly and drunk in a ghway. The number of persons issued with a PND for cohol related behaviour offences in the Metropolitan nd City of London police force areas, by age group, om 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in table 3. he PND Scheme was implemented in all 43 police rce areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Information held centrally is not available at local uthority area. Data have been given in the tables for reater London, which includes the City of London nd Metropolitan police force areas, in which the London orough of Bexley is situated.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

able 1: Number of persons cautioned for alcohol related behaviour offences[1] in Greater London (including the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas), by age group, 2003 to 2007[2,3,4]

ge	Total
03	
to 17	155
to 24	142
04	
to 17	103
to 24	102
05	
to 17	26
to 24	87
06	
to 17	9
to 24	90
07	
to 17	1
to 24	141

Includes offences under the:
icensing Act 1872 s.12;
porting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2);
onfiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1;
riminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32;
riminal Justice Act 1967 s.91;
Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 1791-1(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D;
Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s. 1;
Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22;
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11, 27;
Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3;
Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10,
Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61;
London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28;
Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5);
Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b);
Similar provisions in Local Acts;
Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6);
Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56,
Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52;
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)];
Licensing Act 1988 s. 17,18;
Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19;
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5;
Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol related behaviour offences[1] in Greater London (including the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas), by age group, 2003 to 2007[2,3]

	Police force area
Age	*Total*
2003	
10 to 17	219
18 to 24	3,244
2004	
10 to 17	187
18 to 24	2,763
2005	
10 to 17	151
18 to 24	2,730
2006	
10 to 17	92
18 to 24	2,807
2007	
10 to 17	127
18 to 24	2,600

[1] Includes offences under the:
Licensing Act 1872 s.12;
Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2);
Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1;

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32;
Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91;
Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179I-1(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s 6, Appendix D;
Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1;
Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7)(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22;
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11,27;
Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3;
Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10;
Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61;
London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28;
Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5);
Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b);
Similar provisions in Local Acts;
Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6);
Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56,
Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52;
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.[1] [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)];
Licensing Act 1988 s. 17, 18;
Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19;
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5;
Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder given for alcohol related behaviour offences[1,2] in Greater London (including the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas), by age group, 2004 to 2007[3]

	Police force area
Age	*Total*
2004	
16 to 17	62
18 to 24	1,616
2005	
16 to 17	102
18 to 24	1,305
2006	
16 to 17	100
18 to 24	1,309
2007	
16 to 17	94
18 to 24	1,399

[1] Includes offences under the:
Criminal Justice Act 1967 s. 91;
Licensing Act 2003 s. 141, 146(1)(3), 149(1)(3)(4), 150(1)(2), 151;
Licensing Act 1872 s. 12;
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s. 12;

[2] The offence of being 'drunk and disorderly' moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18, Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery, Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, were added to the scheme on 1 November 2004;
Sale of alcohol to a drunken person, Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18, were added to the Scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has plans to review the provisions of Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in respect of the licensing of scientific procedures on animals. [283522]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have no plans to review the provisions of Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the so-called 'confidentiality clause', before the outcome of the revision of European Union directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is known.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in the London Borough of Bexley since December 2005. [283160]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. Between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006 (the latest period for which data are currently available), 359 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the Greater London CJS area.

During the same period, 213 ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached at least once. Many of these breaches will relate to ASBOs issued in years prior to 2006.

It is possible for an ASBO to be issued in one area and breached in another.

The breach data presented above count breaches based on the area in which the ASBO was issued.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many anti-social behaviour orders are in force in Castle Point; [282861]

(2) how many anti-social behaviour orders Castle Point Borough Council applied for in each of the last five years. [282863]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued on application are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. The available published information showing the number of ASBOs issued on application at all county and magistrates courts in the Essex Criminal Justice System (CJS) area in each year for the period 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the table.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (minimum two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at magistrates and county courts on application in the Essex Criminal Justice System (CJS) area as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006

	CJS area Essex
2002	2
2003	7
2004	9
2005	9
2006	6

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Prepared by OCJR evidence and analysis unit.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent since 31 December 2005. [283001]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. Between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006 (the latest period for which data are currently available), 29 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the Kent CJS area.

During the same period, nine ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached at least once, however, breach data from the magistrates' court administrative systems in Kent are known to have been under-reported. Many of these breaches will relate to ASBOs issued in years prior to 2006.

It is possible for an ASBO to be issued in one area and breached in another. The breach data presented above count breaches based on the area in which the ASBO was issued.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of anti-social behaviour orders were recorded in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency in each year since the inception of such orders. [283186]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available). ASBO breach data are not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Centrally collected ASBO breach data only count those instances where the breach of the ASBO was proven in court to have occurred. An ASBO may be breached on more than one occasion and in more than one year. An ASBO may be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. The available information on the total number of occasions on which ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached in the Merseyside CJS area in each year is shown in the following table.

Number of occasions in the Merseyside Criminal Justice System area[1] where persons were proven in court to have breached their antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006

	CJS area Merseyside *Number*
2000-02[2]	16
2003	25
2004	79
2005	156
2006	170
1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006	446

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of BREACH.

[2] From 1 June 2000.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

2. Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been agreed in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each year since the inception of such contracts; [282786]

(2) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each year since the inception of such orders; [282787]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of crime and disorder reduction partnerships' (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest data published indicate that over 30,000 ABCs have been made between October 2003 and September 2007, with over 2,730 issued in South Yorkshire during the same period. Currently, data on the number of ABCs issued are not available below regional level.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available). ASBO breach data are not compiled below criminal justice system (CJS) area level. Centrally collected ASBO breach data only count those instances where the breach of the ASBO was proven in court to have occurred. The number of occasions in each year on which ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached in the South Yorkshire CJS areas is shown in the table.

Number of occasions in the South Yorkshire criminal justice system area[1] where persons were proven in court to have breached their antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006

CJS area	*2000-02*[2]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006*
South Yorkshire	20	47	76	156	191	490

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of breach.

[2] From 1 June 2000.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to tackle antisocial behaviour in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since the inception of such programmes. [282427]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office allocated £25,000 a year from 2003-04 to each crime disorder and reduction partnership (CDRP) in West Midlands which includes Tamworth and Staffordshire, as a contribution towards funding ASB co-ordinator posts. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supported the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs). As of 2008-09, Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now forms part of the general area-based grant (ABG) paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This funding has been renewed for the period 2008-11 and it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

Respect Programmes in the West Midlands have also had an impact on antisocial behaviour. These programmes, now the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families, were designed to kick-start a change in the way the area worked to tackle antisocial behaviour. Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example, the introduction of community support officers in the West Midlands, including Staffordshire but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution.

Similarly, other programmes and services contribute, sometimes indirectly, to tackling antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities for young people, neighbourhood wardens, as well as neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management.

Asylum: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WS, on asylum support, what estimate he has made of the annual administrative cost of operating a plastic payment card system for the provision of section 4 support for asylum seekers. [271650]

Mr. Woolas: The annual administrative cost is estimated at £200,000. We are confident that the benefits of replacing vouchers with a payment card outweigh the financial investment.

Crime: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Merseyside aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 24-years-old have been (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for drug-related offences in each of the last five years. [283190]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons cautioned or proceeded against at magistrates courts for drug related offences in Merseyside police force area, broken down by age group, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in Tables 1 and 2. Information for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned for drug related offences in the Merseyside police force area, broken down by age group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	10 to 17-years-old	*18 to 24-years-old*
2003	421	506
2004	487	306
2005	293	177
2006	223	216
2007	610	682

[1] The cautions statistics cover simple and conditional cautions, reprimands and warnings. They relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts of drug related offences, in the Merseyside police force area, broken down by age group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

	10 to 17-years-old	*18 to 24-years-old*
2003	393	1,128
2004	297	630
2005	249	432

Table2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts of drug related offences, in the Merseyside police force area, broken down by age group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

	10 to 17-years-old	18 to 24-years-old
2006	222	501
2007	425	1,063

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure a sustainable funding strategy for the specialist violence against women voluntary sector. [282793]

Mr. Woolas: In general, funding decisions for local services are determined by local commissioners based on local areas identifying needs. These are then included in their priorities for improvement with outcomes specifying how the issues will be addressed and how they contribute to wider national aims. Addressing domestic and sexual violence will be a key priority in helping local partnerships to deliver fully on the public service agreement requirements.

The consultation 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls' closed on 29 May, 2009. A key theme for consultation was the promotion of better consistency and quality of provision of services for victims of violence against women and girls. This work will be taken forward during development of a cross-Government strategy.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, *(b)* the Department for Children, Schools and Families, *(c)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(d)* HM Treasury will take to contribute to his Department's cross-government strategy to end violence against women and girls following the end of the consultation on the strategy. [283601]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]*: The Home Secretary has had regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues about Government action on violence against women and girls and has written to the Ministerial Committee on Domestic Affairs twice regarding the cross-Government consultation on ending violence against women and girls.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has established an advisory group which has a specific focus on the role of schools in preventing violence against women and girls.

A cross-Government strategy to address violence against women and girls will be launched by the end of 2009.

Crimes of Viole[illegible]rtfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of violent crime in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire was perpetrated against (i) young people, (ii) families and (iii) pensioners in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [284446]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Recorded crime data provided to the Home Office from each police force area cannot separately identify the individual circumstances of victims.

Selected offences recorded by the police in the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and the Hertfordshire police force area

Number of offences

Area and year	Burglary[1]	Violence against the person	Vehicle crime[2]
Dacorum			
2003-04	1,446	1,440	2,539
2004-05	1,314	2,073	2,033
2005-06	1,108	1,939	1,535
2006-07	1,149	2,155	1,540
2007-08	924	1,617	1,576
Hertfordshire			
2003-04	12,783	12,356	16,885
2004-05	11,471	16,845	13,548
2005-06	10,656	16,206	12,965
2006-07	9,764	16,890	11,914
2007-08	9,534	13,348	11,366

[1] Includes burglary in a dwelling and other burglary.

[2] Includes theft of or from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were working in his Department's European Casework department on 1 June *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [282989]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the number of staff and their full-time equivalent (FTE) working on European casework for the dates requested.

Number of staff and their full-time equivalent (FTE) working on European casework as at 31 May[1]

	Headcount	FTE
2007	170	156.7
2008	130	111.9
2009	243	190.4

[1] The figures are captured on the last working day of the month. These figures have been taken from 31 May for each year and therefore may not capture anyone who started work or changed their hours on or after 1 June.

Note:

The data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to tables 5.2 and 5.3 in his Department's Annual Report 2008, under what budget headings expenditure under the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget in the category police (including grants) has been incurred in 2008-09. [269244]

Alan Johnson: The category police (including grants) has incurred expenditure under the following budget headings:

- Wages and salaries
- Purchases and sales of goods and services
- Grants to local authorities
- Regulatory fees (income)
- Grants to the private sector
- Depreciation, cost of capital and provisions
- Capital additions, net of sales
- Capital grants to private sector
- Capital grants to local authorities

Budgetary headings are assumed to be the Programme Objects, Sub-Programmes and Account Descriptions as defined by HM Treasury, which inform HM Treasury financial management and reporting processes.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279397]

Mr. Woolas: Special advisers in the Home Department attended no training courses in the last 12 months. They did not need to.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's overseas staff have been on training courses in each overseas country in each of the last five years. [282947]

Mr. Woolas: Data are not collected centrally on the number of Home Office staff who have attended training courses abroad in the last five years, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Designated Public Places Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many designated public place orders are in force in each local authority in England and Wales. [284179]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has been informed of 712 designated public place orders (DPPOs) in England and Wales. A list of DPPOs broken down by local authority area is available at the following link:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new immigration detention places were created in each year since 1997; and what the cost of running the immigration detention estate was in each of those years. [282992]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(i) The following table shows the amount of new detention bed places created in each year between 1997 to 2009.

	New bed spaces created
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	112
2001	1,259
2002	316
2003	0
2004	223
2005	69
2006	405
2007	53
2008	84
2009	454
Total	2,975

These figures are based on management information, and are therefore liable to change.

(ii) The cost of operating the UK Border Agency detention estate is complex on account of the way that contracts are formed, the payment mechanisms to contractors and ancillary costs, including the Detention Services HQ function.

The following table, however, sets out the total cost of contracts and the Agency's contribution to the operation of the three centres managed by the Ministry of Justice on our behalf. It does not, however, include things like escorting services, UK Border Agency and Ministry of Justice staffing, all of which directly contribute to the running of the estate.

The table also does not include data prior to 2004. It would be at disproportionate cost to provide this information.

	Spend (£ million)
2008-09	83.028
2007-08	74.697
2006-07	73.925
2005-06	81.887
2004-05	75.813
2003-04	58.057

Domestic Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Respect on domestic abuse. [284104]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Respect is a member of the Home Office Domestic Violence Stakeholder Advisory Group which is chaired by myself. Respect attended the last meeting on 3 June.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government consultation, Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure adequate funding for specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women. [281412]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is part of an inter-ministerial working group and a cross-Government steering group for the Violence Against Women and Girls consultation and strategy.

DCSF is establishing a new advisory group to consider how schools should help tackle violence against women and girls, and how the relevant strands of ongoing DCSF work can most effectively be harnessed to maximise their impact. Gill Frances has been offered and accepted the role of chair of the group which will be meeting before the summer break.

The funding for specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women is one of the issues being considered as a part of the consultation and strategy and any decisions on this will be announced when the strategy is published in the autumn.

Driving: Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals to increase the fixed penalty for offences under section 14(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1998 to £60; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [283706]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The fixed penalty for these offences was increased to £60 by the Fixed Penalty (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2009. The increase came into effect on 30 June.

Drugs: Screening

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* testing of drugs and *(b)* testing for drugs using (i) blood and (ii) urine samples were processed at each Forensic Science Service laboratory in each of the last five years. [283602]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The records on blood and urine tests carried out by the Forensic Science Service are generated by the machines running the analysis. These records do not differentiate between tests on or for blood and urine and cannot be broken down by type.

Drugs case demand report

	Case count					
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Chepstow	3,122	3,036	2,979	3,267	3,484	1,395
Chorley	3,614	4,141	3,868	4,742	4,682	1,809
Huntingdon	3,089	3,596	2,842	3,473	4,061	2,459
London	4,633	4,329	5,298	4,823	4,444	1,246
Manchester	2	1	—	1	2	2
Priory House, Birmingham	2,900	2,478	2,570	2,294	1,791	1,020
Trident Court, Birmingham	48	—	—	4	4	3
Wetherby	2,976	2,703	2,233	2,403	2,905	1,734
Barmston Court	—	—	1	—	1	—
FPU Sheffield	—	—	2	—	—	—
Overall Result	20,384	20,284	19,793	21,007	21,374	9,667

[1] To 29 June

The testing of samples of body fluids and tissues for drugs (both drugs of abuse and medicinal drugs) is carried out at the FSS labs in Chorley and London. Both laboratories carry out toxicology examinations in support of a wide range of criminal investigations; in addition the Chorley lab carries out tests of blood and urine in relation to the investigation of impaired driving through drugs. The cases of impaired driving are reported separately in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
London Toxicology	1,617	1,991	1,912	1,829	1,901
Chorley Toxicology	1,461	1,603	1,297	1,153	1,146
Chorley Drug Driving Unit	2,986	2,526	1,916	1,759	1,663

Entry Clearances: Married People

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions an application for a marriage visa has been refused on the basis of violence or coercion of a spouse since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [282244]

Mr. Woolas: The grounds for refusing a spouse visa as set out in the Immigration Rules are that the following requirements are not met:

(i) (a) The applicant is married to or the civil partner of a person present and settled in the United Kingdom or who is on the same occasion being admitted for settlement; or

(b)(i) the applicant is married to or the civil partner of a person who has a right of abode in the United Kingdom or indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom and is on the same occasion seeking admission to the United Kingdom for the purposes of settlement and the parties were married or formed a civil partnership at least four years ago, since which time they have been living together outside the United Kingdom; and

(b)(ii) the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the English language and sufficient knowledge about life in the United Kingdom, unless he is under the age of 18 or aged 65 or over at the time he makes his application; and

(ii) the parties to the marriage or civil partnership have met; and

(iii) each of the parties intends to live permanently with the other as his or her spouse or civil partner and the marriage or civil partnership is subsisting; and

(iv) there will be adequate accommodation for the parties and any dependants without recourse to public funds in accommodation which they own or occupy exclusively; and

(v) the parties will be able to maintain themselves and any dependants adequately without recourse to public funds.

As such we do not keep records of visas refused where coercion may have been a factor in determining the nature of the relationship. In 2008 the forced marriage unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office dealt with 200 immigration-related cases.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the review of the policy of no recourse to public funds for those entering the UK on a spouse visa in relation to people who are victims of domestic violence and trafficking. [282908]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and the UK Border Agency are working together to introduce a new scheme for victims of domestic violence whose applications for indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule are successful. The scheme will provide a contribution towards the housing and living costs incurred by the supporting organisation, while the applicant's ILR application was outstanding with the UK Border Agency.

The scheme was due to be implemented in June 2009, however, Ministers and stakeholders raised concerns about whether the scheme adequately supported victims. We are taking further time to consider these concerns.

The Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking came into force on 1 April and has provisions for identified victims to access a 45 day reflection period which gives access to accommodation and other services.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications from *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Indian and *(c)* US nationals for a student visa have been rejected since 31 March 2009. [281392]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The percentage of applications from *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Indian and *(c)* US nationals for entry as a student under Tier 4 of the Points Based System between 31 March 2009 and 26 June 2009 is shown in the following table:

PBS Tier 4 (Student) VISA applications: 1 April 2009 to 26 June 2009

	Received	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Withdrawn*	*Lapsed*	*Total resolved*	*Percent refused*
Chinese nationals	1,687	692	374	4	0	1,070	34.9
Indian nationals	3,497	966	938	5	0	1,909	49.1
US nationals	924	662	181	6	0	849	21.3

Note:
1. These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional
2. Some applications received in the period will be resolved after the period end, and some applications resolved in the period will have been received prior to the period start.

Source:
Central Reference System

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested at airports for firearms offences in the last 12 months. [284107]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested are not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) recorded by the police forces in England and Wales, broken down by police force area, offence class and age group of arrestee. From these centrally reported data, it is not possible to separately identify firearms offences from within these offence groups.

Information on the specific location of arrests does not form a part of this collection.

Forensic Science

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of staff *(a)* training and *(b)* recruitment at each forensic science site in each of the next three years. [283019]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The budget allocated for training and for recruitment in the Forensic Science Service has not been divided by site, but has been planned for nationally. Technical training spend in the coming year is currently forecast at £447,000. Figures for the following two years have not yet been agreed.

Recruitment spend over the coming years is currently estimated as follows:

	Recruitment spend (£)
2009-10	400,000
2010-11	470,000
2011-12	480,000
2012-13	480,000

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department operates an in-house forensic science laboratory. [283573]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not operate an in-house forensic science laboratory but does have a branch—the Home Office Science and Development Branch—which is involved in the research and development of forensic techniques.

Forensic Science Regulator

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Forensic Science Regulator was in 2008-09; and what it is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [283867]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]*: The information is as follows:

The budget for 2008-09 was £1.3 million

The budget for 2009-10 is £1.3 million

The budget for 2010-11 has not been set but is expected to remain as that for the previous year.

Forensic Science Regulator: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff at each Civil Service payband are employed by the Forensic Science Regulator. [283868]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Forensic Science Regulator is a public appointment who is supported by a small team of civil servants employed by the Home Office. The team consist of:

Grade 7: two

SEO/SSO: three

EO: one

PS/Admin: one

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which company has been appointed as a consultant on human relations in the Forensic Science Service. [284503]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The only major consultancy services have been obtained from Deloitte (who assisted the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in 2008 with its preliminary thinking on business transformation). Deloitte have also been FSS's pension advisers for some time. FSS has used a number of specialist providers in a smaller way to support the design of the business transformation programme. The transformation team itself has also been staffed by a number of agency and interim specialists to work alongside and train in-house resources.

Forensic Science Service: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for proposing the closure of the Forensic Science Services (FSS) Chorley laboratory as part of the consultation to reduce national FSS staff numbers. [282949]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has embarked on a consultation on its plans to transform, to move to a new national delivery model based around four primary sites, instead of the current seven main locations. It is not a consultation to cut staff numbers.

The company's preferred model does not envisage the long-term continued use of Chorley as a main laboratory. No final decision has been taken ahead of completion of the consultation.

In selecting those sites proposed as suitable for inclusion, a number of factors were carefully considered.

A main building block of the proposed operational delivery model is the co-location of body fluid search examination with DNA analytical facilities to meet the challenging customer timeliness requirements and improvements in success rates (i.e. providing a useful DNA profile from a body fluid stain). This is significantly different to how the current services operate and a key enabler to any estate footprint.

Current DNA analytical facilities are located at Huntingdon, London, Trident Court and Wetherby. The start up cost and time lag of introducing DNA facilities into sites where DNA is not currently delivered has had a significant impact on the choice of proposed retained locations.

Among other key factors considered were:

Available laboratory space, as well as type of space;

Lowest risk on customer disengagement;

Maintaining geographical spread across England & Wales;

Overall execution risk and cost/benefit analysis;

Response to scenes;

Current mix of skills at each site and their alignment, as far as possible, to the proposed national business streams.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with coroners based in the North West on the proposed closure of the e laboratory in Chorley. [284501]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has a pathology laboratory in Sheffield which services the north-west. Staff at this facility have held discussions on the transformation of the FSS with local coroners.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has consulted the police force of *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* Merseyside, *(c)* Greater Manchester, *(d)* Cumbria and *(e)* Cheshire on the proposed closure of the Forensic Science Service laboratory in Chorley. [284502]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has communicated with all its law enforcement customers as part of the consultation process, in order to develop a proposed new structure that will best serve the needs of the Criminal Justice Service.

The FSS will continue to communicate with its law enforcement customers throughout the process.

Forensic Science Service: Redundancy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department provided to staff at Forensic Science Service laboratories at *(a)* Chepstow, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Chorley on the closure and redundancy programme on 24 June 2009. [283603]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* On 24 June, the Forensic Science Service shared proposals about the approach to redundancy and operational site deployment with both Trade Union and Employee Forum representatives and copies of these proposals were made available to all FSS staff.

The approach to redundancy proposal covers:

Individual consultation

Appeals process

Maximising redeployment opportunities

Trial periods

Notice periods

Support and outplacement

Redundancy package

Voluntary redundancy

The operational site deployment proposal covers the approach, rationale and proposed site deployment based on the proposed move to national business streams. It provides details about:

the options considered;

the criteria against which the proposed option was selected (e.g. co-location of body fluid/DNA casework;

available laboratory space;

delivery of the national framework products/services and quality;

lowest risk to customer disengagement;

the operational considerations and impacts.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the likely number of redundancies at each Forensic Science Service laboratory in the next 12 months. [283566]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has stated that it anticipates a maximum of 800 redundancies across the company but at this formative stage of collective consultation the FSS cannot be definitive about the actual locations impacted or number of staff affected. Clear proposals around these will be shared as a part of the consultation process when the detail is available.

Forensic Science Service: Isle of Man

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from *(a)* the police, *(b)* coroners and *(c)* the Government of the Isle of Man as part of his Department's consultation on the Forensic Science Service. [284500]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The consultation on the future structure of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) Ltd. is being conducted by the company, not by the Home Office.

The Home Office has received no representations from these parties, nor has the company itself.

The FSS continues to carry out work for the police service in the Isle of Man under a service level agreement.

The FSS has communicated with all its law enforcement customers as part of the transformation process, in order to develop a proposed new structure that will best serve the needs of the Criminal Justice Service.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 364W, on illegal immigrants, how many *(a)* removals and *(b)* voluntary departures there were in each year since 2005. [279622]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office publishes statistics on removals and voluntary departures from the UK broken down by type on a quarterly and annual basis. The latest published information for the last four years can be found in Table 7c of the quarterly Control of Immigration: Quarterly statistical summary United Kingdom Q4 2008:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408.pdf

Immigrants: Somalia

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Somali nationals in the UK who do not have leave to remain. [282735]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally or who have overstayed their leave to remain. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* highly-skilled migrants and *(b)* dependents of highly-skilled migrants were given leave to enter the UK under (i) the highly-skilled migrants programme and (ii) tier 1 of the points-based system in the first quarter of 2009. [280797]

Mr. Woolas: The Highly Skilled Migrant Programme was subsumed under Tier 1 of the Points Based System on 30 June 2008.

In the first quarter of 2009, 7,803 non-EEA nationals were issued with visas to enter the UK as highly skilled migrants under Tier 1 of the Points Based System, and 3,468 non-EEA nationals were issued with visas to enter as their dependents (i.e. partner or child).

Immigration Officers: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days' training has been given on average to a front line immigration officer on the introduction of the points-based immigration system. [282987]

Mr. Woolas: On average front line Border Force officers complete at least three-quarters of a day dedicated to training on the points-based system.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of companies offering vehicle clamping services on private land to individuals and businesses. [284162]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]*: The Security Industry Authority estimates that there are between 100 and 200 businesses in this sector.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of regulating the activity of companies offering vehicle-clamping sources on private land in the same manner as the regulation by local authorities of parking companies. [284163]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The Home Office launched a public consultation on 30 April 2009 on proposals for regulation of vehicle immobilisation businesses. The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-vehicle-immobilisation/

Many local authorities employ contractors to carry out enforcement of on-street parking regulations but they do not in that context regulate the businesses themselves.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people he expects to have access to the Independent Safeguarding Authority database; and with which organisations and individuals such people will be authorised to share information from the database. [283529]

Mr. Hanson: The ISA manages a number of databases. Only ISA staff will have direct access to the databases and information will be shared with partner organisations and individuals in accordance with the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Of course, any employer with legitimate reason will be able to check if an individual is registered with the scheme.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a privacy impact assessment has been undertaken of the Independent Safeguarding Authority database; and whether the Information Commissioner has reviewed this. [283535]

Mr. Hanson: The Vetting and Barring Scheme programme, which includes establishment of the Independent Safeguarding Authority is being delivered in phases. The programme is currently in its third phase and a Privacy Impact Assessment is scheduled to be completed with the full support and contribution of the Information Commissioners Office during the remaining three phases of the programme. Some aspects of the Privacy Impact Assessment have been captured in the first round of Business Impact Assessments and the Information Commissioner's Office is aware of this progress.

Mobile Phones: Registration

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for a compulsory register of mobile telephones; and if he will make a statement. [283858]

Mr. Hanson: We have no plans to introduce a mandatory registration scheme for mobile phones and would want firm evidence of the effectiveness of any such scheme before deciding whether legislation, as proposed by some European member states, was appropriate.

Muslim Population

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the size of the Muslim population of the UK in each year since 1979. [284443]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the Muslim population of Britain in each year since 1979. (284443)

The Census is the most commonly used source for statistics on religion by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with more recent information on religious affiliation (that is the identification with a religion irrespective of actual practice or belief) from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The way people respond to questions on religion is sensitive to what question is asked and how it is asked. Therefore because of differences between the Census and LFS in terms of question design and also coverage of the type of establishments in which people reside, data from these two sources cannot be compared.

The 2001 Census was the first time that a religion question had been asked in the England and Wales (and Scotland) census, and revealed that 1,589,000 people in Great Britain identified as Muslim in 2001.

A question on religious affiliation was introduced into the LFS in Great Britain in Spring 2002 using an extended version of the wording used in the England and Wales Census, but was not asked of people aged 16 and under until 2004. Consequently the earliest suitable estimates are from 2004 which cover people of all ages, and are shown in Table 1 attached.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is included at Table 1.

Table 1: Muslim population[1] Three month period ending September, 2004-08, Great Britain, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
2004	*1,870
2005	*2,017
2006	*2,142
2007	*2,327
2008	*2,422

[1] All ages

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Police Reform Act 2002

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report,* columns 37-8W, on the Police Reform Act 2002, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's files relating to the provisions in part 2 of the Police Reform Act 2002 establishing a new system for handling complaints against the police; and if he will make a statement. [282246]

Mr. Hanson: No. Departmental files on the legislative process and the formulation of policy are kept primarily for briefing purposes for Ministers.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which police forces the chief constable is an acting chief constable; and if he will make a statement. [283941]

Mr. Hanson: As of 6 July 2009, Essex, Northamptonshire and Staffordshire have an acting chief constable. For each of the three forces, the relevant police authority has a recruitment process underway for a substantive chief constable.

Police: Public Opinion

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals for the selection process for chief constables to take account of public opinion in the area for which the appointment is to be made. [281781]

Mr. Hanson: Police authorities appoint chief constables, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State and Police Regulations. Appointing a chief constable is a key means by which the authority can discharge its function of securing an efficient and effective police force for an area. Consideration of the public's views should inform the police authority view of the professional and strategic requirements which underpin the recruitment of a chief constable.

The Policing and Crime Bill currently before Parliament strengthens the requirement on police authorities to consider the public's views in discharging any of their functions.

Police: Sports Events

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has issued guidance to the police on using powers under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 to police sporting events. [283734]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office issued guidance on Directions to Leave (section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) in August 2007. This power can be used where an individual's presence is likely to cause or contribute to the occurrence, repetition or continuance of alcohol-related crime and disorder. The guidance does not specifically mention sporting events, but there is no reason why the power cannot be used at these events, providing that the legislative tests have been met.

A copy of the guidance can be found by using the web link as follows.

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/directions-to-leave-locality

Police: Uniforms

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department issues guidance on the taking of disciplinary action against police officers who refuse openly to display their badge numbers. [283207]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 30 June 2009]:* The Home Office has not issued such guidance. The Home Office is currently considering the recommendations of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee on this and other issues in its recent report on the Policing of the G20 protests.

If an officer is found to have deliberately removed his or her identification to avoid being held accountable, they breach the standards expected of police officers and would be liable to be dealt with under the disciplinary arrangements as set out in the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008.

Police: Vehicles

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to require police forces to purchase British-assembled vehicles for police force use. [283942]

Mr. Hanson: The police service procures vehicles using framework arrangements managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency and the National Association of Police Fleet Managers. It is a requirement that these framework arrangements are procured in accordance with European Union procurement directives and United Kingdom public procurement regulations that prevent discrimination on national grounds.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in his Department's review of state powers of entry; and what timetable has been set for publication of *(a)* an interim and *(b)* a final report on that review. [284180]

Mr. Hanson: We have compiled a comprehensive list of powers of entry which is contained on the Powers of Entry Review webpage at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/

The aim is to provide a final report by autumn 2009.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations the Security Industry Authority has conducted into individuals *(a)* working without a licence, *(b)* working with fake licences, *(c)* working with revoked or suspended licences, *(d)* working with expired licences, *(e)* working with licences that were fraudulently obtained and *(f)* breaching Security Industry Authority licence conditions in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [283943]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on numbers of investigations is not held centrally by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The SIA does however have figures for the total number of outcomes of its investigations, since the relevant offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 were designated from June 2004 onwards:

	Number issued
Written warnings issued	1,092
Improvement notices issued	87
Licence revocations	12,632

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Data Protection

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of data loss by the Serious Organised Crime Agency have been recorded in each month of the last two years. [278306]

Alan Johnson: In the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 SOCA suffered no data losses which had to be reported to the Information Commissioner or the Cabinet Office.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports he has received of the outcome of the recent cases *(a)* R (F) v Secretary of State for Justice and *(b)* R (Thompson) v Secretary for the Home Department before Lord Justice Latham, Mr Justice Underhill and Mr Justice Flaux; and if he will establish a means to review a requirement for indefinite registration on the Sex Offenders Register. [283956]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The cases of R (on the application of F and Thompson) *v.* the Secretary of State for the Home Department were heard in the High Court on 19 December. The High Court held that the sex offender notification requirements are incompatible with article 8 (right to family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights in so far as offenders who are subject to these requirements (commonly referred to as being on the sex offenders' register) for life cannot apply for a review of whether they should remain on the register. The Home Office has appealed this decision. The case will be heard by the Court of Appeal on 9 July 2009. Until we know the outcome of the appeal, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further but clearly we will give careful consideration to the Court of Appeal's judgment.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos: Documents

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many asbestos records in each of the 14 categories for which HM Inspector of the Health and Safety Executive is the enforcing authority required to be received by the Health and Safety Executive have been destroyed since 1984. [278978]

Jonathan Shaw: For records associated with asbestos licensing, HSE's Asbestos Licensing Unit (ALU) maintains its own electronic database containing records of applications and licences from 1984 onwards and holds details of work notifications received since 2001. This information is of a general nature concerning the licence holding organisations and would not normally contain any records on named individual employees. No records have been deleted by ALU.

Business: Disabled

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to inform businesses of their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [284370]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government provide information for businesses on their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) through Business Link and through this Department's website for employers.

Since 1997 the Government have undertaken a number of campaigns to raise awareness among businesses and other organisations of their obligations under the DDA.

Most recently, the Employ ability campaign which concluded in March 2009 engaged with small and medium employers to improve their understanding of disability and their attitudes towards employing disabled people with long-term health conditions. The campaign website also included information on employer duties under the DDA.

The Government also sponsor the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) which provides advice and guidance to businesses about their duties under the DDA.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of carer's allowance in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [283420]

Jonathan Shaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the merits of bringing forward legislation to make unpaid child maintenance arrears a priority charge in respect of compensation paid to the non-resident parent with such arrears; and if she will make a statement. [278256]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is currently considering whether the new powers set out in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Act 2008 to impose a lump sum deduction orders will enable the commission to intercept amounts accruing or due to the non resident parent.

Departmental Correspondence

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of letters to her Department from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280463]

Jim Knight: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281062]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the numbers of laptop computers which were recorded as lost or stolen in each of the years to 31 December 2008. The Department has introduced a number of security improvements, including a requirement that all laptops are encrypted.

	Number
2004	75
2005	46
2006	28
2007	15
2008	41

Currently the Department has just over 9,700 laptop computers in use.

Employment Zones Programme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers are taking part in *(a)* stage one, *(b)* stage two and *(c)* stage three of the Employment Zones programme in each of the programme's designated areas. [280629]

Jim Knight: The information is not collated centrally and is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit: Reform

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 45 of the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7654, on what proposals relating to the reform of housing benefit she intends to consult. [284042]

Helen Goodman: As set out in the 2008 Welfare Reform White Paper, 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future', we intend to consult on how housing benefit can do more to ease the transition into work, promote value for money and ensure that the system is fair to working families not eligible for benefit.

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had on funding for job centres. [272469]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State and her Ministers have regular discussions on Jobcentre Plus funding with a wide variety of people inside and outside the Department.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit delivery centres and *(b)* customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each year since 2002. [277517]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) benefit delivery centres and; (b) customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each year since 2002. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

I have attached a table (two pages) which shows the number of offices in which benefits were processed and the number of Jobcentres in each London Borough from 2002 to 2009. Benefit Delivery Centres were not fully in place in London until 2007.

Local authority	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Barking and Dagenham								
Jobcentres	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Bexley								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

Local authority	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Brent								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Camden								
Jobcentres	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	1
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Ealing								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enfield								
Jobcentres	0	0	0	4	4	4	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0
Hackney								
Jobcentres	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
Hammersmith and Fulham								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Harrow								
Jobcentres	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havering								
Jobcentres	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Benefit Processing Offices	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hounslow								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Benefit Processing Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington								
Jobcentres	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	3

Local authority	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea								
Jobcentres	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames								
Jobcentres	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Lambeth								
Jobcentres	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	5
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Merton								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Newham								
Jobcentres	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Benefit Processing Offices	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
Redbridge								
Jobcentres	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Richmond upon Thames								
Jobcentres	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Southwark								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sutton								
Jobcentres	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets								
Jobcentres	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest								
Jobcentres	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Benefit Processing Offices	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth								
Jobcentres	5	4	3	2	1	1	1	1
Benefit Processing Offices	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Westminster								
Jobcentres	5	5	5	4	2	2	2	3
Benefit Processing Offices	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the £1.7 billion funding for Jobcentre Plus announced in the 2009 Budget will be allocated for *(a)* additional staff at each grade and *(b)* contractors. [273879]

Jim Knight: Budget 2009 announced an additional £1.7 billion to DWP for Jobcentre Plus customers over the next two years, to 2010-11. £1.1 billion was allocated to Jobcentre Plus for staff and infrastructure to deliver front line services. £0.6 billion was allocated for Employment Programmes to be delivered by third party provision.

A breakdown of the planned staff costs over the two years by grade is currently unavailable. Further detailed planning is in progress to ensure that we can manage customer demand with the staff resource we have available.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter to her predecessor of 18 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S Mahmood. [283361]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 30 June 2009.

Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations her Department has received from local authorities on the implications for local authority budgets of the provisions of the draft Pensions (Automatic Enrolment) Regulations 2009. [284095]

Angela Eagle: My Department has received two written representations from the Local Government Employers and one written representation from the Communities and Local Government about the implications for local authority budgets of the draft Pensions (Automatic Enrolment) Regulations 2009.

Progress2Work Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many caseworkers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* Peterborough constituency offer assistance to jobseekers through the Progress2Work scheme. [281720]

Jim Knight: This information regarding the number of caseworkers in England is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. One caseworker offers support in Cambridgeshire and one caseworker offers support in Peterborough.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers did not remain in work or training for more than 13 weeks under the Progress2Work scheme since its inception. [280627]

Jim Knight: Between its inception in 2001 to 30 April 2009, progress2work has assisted 13,471 customers into employment and placed 18,832 onto a range of training courses. Of those customers who we know have found work, 8,243 did not remain in employment for longer than 13 weeks and of those customers who we know found training, 5,400 did not remain in it for more than 13 weeks.

Notes:

Figures for the number of customers leaving education courses is unobtainable, therefore the figure of 5,400 is for mainstream and specialist training only.

Source:

ORC International

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many caseworkers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point are offering support to jobseekers through the Progress2Work scheme. [280628]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of caseworkers in England offering support to jobseekers through the progress2work scheme is not collated centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost. This is because the size and volume of each progress2work contract varies substantially across each Jobcentre Plus District. However, we recommend that progress2work contractors employ one caseworker per 50 customers.

Five caseworkers are offering support in Essex and one caseworker is offering support in Castle Point.

Social Security Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum period between receipt of an application for (i) housing and (ii) council tax benefit and the first payment arising from such a claim was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [283452]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* In the fourth quarter of 2007-08 the national average time for processing new housing benefit claims was 25.5 calendar days and for new council tax benefit claims was 23.9 calendar days.

For the same period the maximum time for processing new housing benefit claims at local authority level (not case level) was an average of calendar 66.6 days, and the maximum time for processing new council tax benefit claims at local authority level (not case level) was an average of 62.2 calendar days.

Source:

Quarterly Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration Data.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the amount of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit, *(d)* carer's allowance, *(e)* jobseeker's allowance and *(f)* incapacity benefit unclaimed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [284222]

Jim Knight: The latest estimates of take-up of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08'. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Estimates of the sum of unclaimed industrial injuries disablement benefit, carer's allowance and incapacity benefit are not available.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much *(a)* citizens of other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU citizens claimed in benefits in the UK in 2008; [284875]

(2) how many *(a)* citizens of other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU citizens claimed benefits in the UK in 2008. [284882]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Applications

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit have been (i) made and (ii) processed in (A) 2007-08, (B) 2008-09 and (C) 2009-10 to date. [283453]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* Data are not yet available for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

In 2007-08 1,380,865 housing benefit applications and 1,532,535 council tax benefit applications were processed by local authorities.

Source:

Quarterly Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration Data.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had been waiting for over four weeks to receive state pension payments at the latest date for which information is available. [282159]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1381-82W, on home responsibilities protection, how many women have been contacted; how many women have received lump sums of backdated pension; how much has been paid in backdated pensions; and what estimate she has made of the amount which will have been paid out by the end of the exercise. [284243]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The exercise to contact women who may have missed out on home responsibilities protection (HRP) started on 6 July. It is expected to take around two years to complete. We are not yet able to give an estimate of the amount which will have been paid out by the end of the exercise. Our preliminary analysis that somewhere in the region of 100,000 to 150,000 women may not be receiving their full entitlement to state pension because HRP has not been applied in its calculation is unchanged.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices: Unemployment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people became unemployed after ending an apprenticeship in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire in 2008. [282799]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not currently hold data centrally about the total number of apprentices made redundant. Arrangements are in place from 1 August 2009 onwards to record the number of apprentices who are made redundant. Working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we have established a matching service to help apprentices at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices, in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy.

Boarding Schools: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who boarded at school were recorded by the 2009 school census as being looked after children. [282614]

Mr. Coaker: Provisional figures show that there were 390 pupils who boarded at school and were classed as being looked after as at January 2009.

The information provided is from the School Census however this is not the usual source of data for information on looked after children. Usually we would use the looked after children database but this does not hold all the details requested here.

The School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. It is also possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local education authorities have been successful in one or more applications for funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how much funding has been awarded to each such authority; [282218]

(2) which local education authorities that have been successful in one or more applications under the Building Schools for the Future programme contain three-tier schools in either all or part of the authority. [282223]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables set out the funding agreed for local authorities in BSF.

		Funding (£000)	
Wave	*Local authority*	*Conventional*	*PFI credits*
1	Bradford	9,461	111,904
1	Bristol	31,899	157,173
1	Greenwich	57,226	183,510
1	Knowsley	3,508	249,984
1	Lancashire	77,895	254,252
1	Leeds	166,767	185,743
1	Leicester	164,809	151,317
1	Lewisham	17,793	118,971
1	Manchester	303,420	0
1	Newcastle[1]	84,968	169,186
1	Newham	98,153	66,484
1	Sheffield	76,979	88,999
1	Solihull	33,486	86,790
1	South Tyneside and Gateshead (joint project)	158,555	68,672
1	Sunderland	120,596	0
1	Waltham Forest	39,980	53,910
2	Birmingham	260,605	103,655
2	Hackney	152,096	0
2	Haringey	176,634	0
2	Islington	84,711	112,838
2	Kingston upon Hull	278,011	151,627
2	Lambeth	97,129	0
2	Liverpool	162,683	0
2	Middlesbrough	115,869	0
2	Nottingham	146,512	75,913
2	Tower Hamlets	102,479	0
3	Barnsley	28,498	332,585
3	Bradford	[illegible]	214,782
3	Derbyshire	[illegible]	64,945
3	Durham	79,041	90,001
3	Kent[1]	173,164	98,840
3	Lewisham	68,439	112,499
3	Luton	122,776	36,279
3	North Lincolnshire	89,416	0
3	Salford	16,953	222,677
3	Sandwell	137,199	62,874
3	Southwark	149,596	89,672
3	Tameside	80,161	131,664
3	Westminster	159,605	0
4	Blackburn	85,052	118,636
4	Bristol	155,505	0
4	Cambridgeshire[1]	96,514	62,213
4	Coventry	201,811	366,941
4	Essex	30,637	168,762
4	Hertfordshire[1]	134,461	148,196
4	Rochdale	122,701	131,992
4	Sheffield	232,363	38,393
4	Somerset[1]	7,927	180,442
4	Telford and Wrekin	225,726	0
5	Camden	179,648	135,228
5	Derby	160,322	115,783
5	Ealing	250,005	152,624
5	Greenwich	76,506	62,342
5	Hartlepool	100,737	0
5	Lambeth	222,786	0
5	St. Helens	96,565	124,368
5	Sandwell	128,949	103,141
5	Wolverhampton	270,968	143,421

[1] Authorities which have three-tier schools in all or part of the authority.

Funding levels have yet to be agreed for the following projects.

These projects have started in BSF, but have yet to achieve approval of the outline business case, which confirms the funding.

Wave	*Local authority*
1	Stoke-on-Trent
4	Barking and Dagenham
4	Kent
4	Manchester
4	Oldham
5	Birmingham
5	Blackpool
5	Bradford
5	Derbyshire
5	Kensington and Chelsea
5	Kent
5	North East Lincolnshire
5	Newham
5	Nottingham
5	Tower Hamlets
5	Waltham Forest
5	Wandsworth
6	Bedford[1]
6	Bournemouth and Poole[1] (joint project)
6	Doncaster
6	Durham
6	Essex
6	Halton
6	Hammersmith and Fulham
6	Hillingdon
6	Kent
6	Kirklees[1]
6	Liverpool
6	Luton
6	Nottinghamshire
6	Portsmouth
6	Redcar and Cleveland
6	Stockton-on-Tees
6	Suffolk[1]
6a	Enfield
6a	Hounslow
6a	Rotherham
6a	Walsall
6a	North Tyneside[1]
6a	Worcestershire[1]
6a	Staffordshire[1]
6a	Southampton

[1] Authorities which have three-tier schools in all or part of the authority.

Carers: Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of young carers in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire. [282791]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2001 Census, which is the only source of nationally comparable data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that there were some 700 children and young people aged under 18 in Barnsley, 900 in Doncaster and 4,000 in South Yorkshire who were offering some care to family members, neighbours, friends or others.

The Census records young people who are described by the adults in the household as offering care to their families or communities. This includes young people who are responsible for the care of a family member (which is how young carers are usually defined) plus others who may provide more occasional support such as child care for their parents or care for neighbours and friends.

Child Workforce Development Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what budget he has allocated to the Child Workforce Development Council for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* each future year for which figures are available. [283236]

Dawn Primarolo: The Children's Workforce Development Council has been allocated a core grant allocation of £31,003,000 for 2010-11 as part of the comprehensive spending review agreements. The additional contributions for specific programme delivery have not yet been agreed.

The financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 are beyond the extent of this comprehensive spending review cycle and therefore information is not available.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff the Child Workforce Development Council employed in each year since its establishment. [283237]

Dawn Primarolo: Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was established in 2005. The following table details the average monthly number of full-time equivalent staff employed by CWDC in each year since its establishment:

	Permanent	*Other*	*Total*
2005-06[1]	10	—	10
2006-07[1]	43	—	43
2007-08[2]	99	15	114
2008-09[3]	133	18	151

[1] Taken from published Annual Reports and Financial Statements.

[2] As will be restated in draft audited accounts 2008-09 to be laid before summer recess 2009.

[3] Taken from draft audited accounts 2008-09.

Children in Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward secondary legislation under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to provide that *(a)* children in care shall receive a visit from a local authority representative at least once a month, *(b)* adults who have been in care may be considered for appointment as independent visitors by local authorities, *(c)* a child may be placed outside a local authority's area if it is in the child's best interest, *(d)* before any child in care is placed back home with a parent a local authority must ensure that (i) it is safe for the child, (ii) the parent or parents can look after the child and (iii) the child is happy to go home and *(e)* the duties of independent review officers shall include (A) keeping in touch with each child in care, (B) listening to children's views, (C) making sure a child in care understands the local authority's planned arrangements and (D) checking action taken against care plans and reviews. [262513]

Dawn Primarolo: We intend to tackle the issues raised in the question as follows:

(a) Section 15 of the Children and Young Persons Act places a duty on local authorities to arrange for all looked after children to be visited by a representative of theirs and for all looked-after-children to have available to them advice, support and assistance when they seek it. We shall be issuing regulations about how local authorities should discharge its duties under this section. We intend to impose a general minimum requirement setting the frequency of social work visits to looked-after-children and we will specify in addition that visits should also take place at the request of the child or their carer. We will be consulting on draft regulations and guidance including the frequency of visits in due course.

(b) We will also be using new regulations to broaden the categories of children who could be provided with an independent visitor. Care experienced adults might well make very suitable independent visitors for looked-after-children and we will consider them alongside other options.

(c) Section 8 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 sets out the considerations that local authorities must have regard to when they are considering making a placement for a looked-after-child. We will be strengthening regulations and guidance so that all placement decisions must be based on a thorough assessment of the needs of the individual child concerned which, for some children is likely to result in a placement away from their home community and out of their local authority area.

(d) Our strengthened regulations and guidance will say that every looked-after-child must have a care plan based on thorough detailed assessment setting out how the local authority intends to respond to their needs. All care plans must take into account the child's wishes and feelings. Plans to re-unify looked-after-children with their families must take account of children's safety and include an assessment of how the child and their family's circumstances have changed so that their parents are able to resume the child's care.

(e) Section 10 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 specifically strengthens the role of the independent reviewing officer (IRO) by:

> Making it clear that one of the IRO's core responsibilities is to ensure that children and young people are able to contribute meaningfully to their care plan and its reviews.
>
> Imposing a new legal duty on IROs to ensure that due consideration is given by the local authority to the child's wishes and feelings.
>
> Ensure that each child will have a named IRO, so that a child can be confident that one person will offer continuity and have oversight of their case.

Through new regulations and guidance, we intend to specify that every child must have their own named IRO and that IROs must meet with the young person in advance of the review meeting. This is to ensure that they understand the purpose of the review and are given the opportunity to fully contribute to the discussion about the plan for their future care. Every review should provide a real opportunity to scrutinise the child's care plan to ensure that it continues to offer an appropriate response to the full range of their needs.

Children in Care: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in residential care in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby in each of the last five years. [282529]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 640-45W. This response showed the number of children in residential care at 31 March, by local authority for years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008.

Merseyside is made up of the following local authorities: Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens. Figures cannot be provided below local authority level.

Children In Care: Missing Persons

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children went missing from care homes in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year from 1997 to 2008. [282907]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1068W. Information on the number of looked after children that went missing from care homes was not collected prior to 2001. This information cannot be provided below local authority level.

Children in Care: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of looked-after children in Staffordshire achieved results equivalent to or higher than the average results achieved by all children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Staffordshire in each key stage examination in each of the last five years. [282488]

Dawn Primarolo: Published information for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 30 September each year is available in the local authority tables via the following links:

2004—tables 2 to 4

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

2005—tables 2 to 5

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000655/index.shtml

2006— tables 2 to 5

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000727/index.shtml

2007— tables 2 to 5

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

2008— tables 2 to 5

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000842/index.shtml

All tables show the attainment for each key stage for looked after children compared to all children. This shows the numbers and percentages achieving the expected level which are provided instead of the average results.

Data for key stage 1 are not included for 2004 because this was the trial year for key stage 1 teacher assessments—as this took place in a sample of schools; it is not possible to provide a comparison between the attainments of looked after children and all children.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities did not meet the ContactPoint readiness assessment 7 deadline of 26 June 2009. [283441]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* All but five local authorities had completed RA7 (ContactPoint readiness assessment 7) by the checkpoint date of 26 June. All other local authorities completed RA7 in the following week.

Children: Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what changes he is planning to the integrated children's system; [284785]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of implementing proposed changes to the integrated children's system. [284658]

Dawn Primarolo: Baroness Delyth Morgan's letter to all directors of children's services on 22 June was accompanied by a circular setting out the principles which will guide future development of the Integrated Children's System. These principles make clear that it is the responsibility of local authorities to determine how information systems can be used to support the delivery of social care services.

The Government will work with practitioners to simplify the national specifications of ICS, local authorities will not be required to comply with the published specifications, although this does not alter their obligations to comply with their statutory duties towards children and their families.

A copy of Baroness Delyth Morgan's letter is available from:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/integratedchildrenssystem/ics/

The detailed local consequences of these changes will depend upon the decisions of individual local authorities. It is a matter for the authorities to determine how to invest their budgets in the maintenance and upgrading of their IT systems,, and information on this expenditure is not collected centrally. The Department has indicated that it will support this expenditure with a capital grant for ICS of £6.4 million in 2009-10.

Children's Play: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's play schemes in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency in the last 12 months. [282576]

Dawn Primarolo: Enfield are one of 30 play pathfinder authorities across England and began receiving play funding from April 2008, as part of the first wave of the children's plan play capital investment programme. The authority has already received £594,107 capital funding and £138,510 revenue funding during 2008-09 which was used to successfully deliver 12 new/improved public play areas in the borough. They have been allocated a further £1,569,237 capital funding and £218,633 revenue funding to be spent in 2009-10 to deliver another 16 public play areas and one adventure playground.

The play capital investment programme will provide capital and revenue funding to every one of the 152 top-tier local authorities in England in order to develop/improve play spaces. Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all Members of Parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local Members of Parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

English Language: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on England's position in international rankings of countries in which English is the first language for educational attainment in English in each of the last five years. [284653]

Mr. Coaker: There have been no international comparisons studies designed specifically to test English as a first language.

Families: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what services his Department provides to assist young families in Coventry. [283499]

Dawn Primarolo: Supporting families is a key priority for the Department for Children Schools and Families. Over the current spending review period (2008-11) Coventry has been allocated approximately £21 million in capital and revenue funding to support the development of children's centres, early years and child care provision in the area, including outreach work for the most disadvantaged. There are currently 20 designated Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to around 15,987 children under five and their families, with a further three centres in development.

Over £75 million is being made available nationally for 2009-10 for targeted initiatives to support families with high levels of need, with a particular focus on parenting skills. This will enable all local authorities to have family intervention projects, the parenting early intervention programme (for parents of 8-13 year olds) and to each employ two expert parenting practitioners.

Funding: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to teacher recruitment in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997; [279717]

(2) how much funding the Government has allocated to reducing class sizes in Milton Keynes in each of the last 10 years. [279718]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. Each local authority in consultation with their Schools Forum can choose to include a factor in their funding formula to direct resources to schools with infant classes to enable them to meet the class size duty. The Department does not collect information on how much funding was allocated to recruiting teachers for Milton Keynes schools.

Integrated Children's System

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 392W, on the Integrated Children's System, (1) who was responsible for the Quality Protects Management Information project when the Integrated Children's System requirements were developed; how many *(a)* local authority officers and *(b)* frontline social workers were consulted at each stage of development; which commercial suppliers of children's social care systems were consulted; with which contracted specialists his Department collaborated; and if he will publish the correspondence between his Department and commercial suppliers connected with the Integrated Children's System; [282022]

(2) how many meetings there were with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* front-line social workers in developing the requirements for local authorities to procure systems from IT suppliers to support delivery of the model. [282510]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* The Quality Protects Management Information project was the responsibility of the then Secretary of State for Health when the original Integrated Children's System (ICS) requirements were developed between 2001 and 2003.

10 consultation events were held in 2000 with over 500 representatives from organisations responsible for child welfare in England and Wales, including local authority social services departments, private and voluntary agencies, the then Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, pilot post-qualifying child care courses, software houses, and a number of other interested individuals. Two additional events in Wales drew together an inter-agency audience in the context of the Children First programme. As part of the consultation exercise, specific groups consulted included foster carers, children, young people, families with disabled children and families from ethnic minority groups. Information on exactly how many meetings were held with either local authorities or frontline social workers

or on how many local authority officers and frontline social workers were consulted at each stage of development is not available.

Following this exercise, the Department of Health (DH) published the conceptual framework for ICS as a consultation document ("Integrated Children's System: Working with Children in Need and Their Families") addressed to Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CSSRs) in December 2002. DH and the Welsh Assembly Government addressed a further consultation document ("Information Outputs for Children's Social Services A Conceptual Framework") to CSSRs in March 2003.

The commercial systems suppliers consulted by DH were OLM, Anite, Careworks, and TCO. Anite's ICS interests were purchased in 2008 by Northgate; TCO was acquired in 2005 by CACI.

Following machinery of Government changes in 2003, the Department for Children, Schools and Families took responsibility for ICS. Capgemini consultants were contracted by DCSF to conduct a readiness review of local authorities' ICS preparedness in 2006. These consultants were then retained to prepare industry-standard requirements documentation, in response to feedback from local authorities during the review.

Correspondence with IT suppliers contracting for ICS systems is the responsibility of those individual local authorities which either are, or might wish to become, their customers. The Department's direct relations with these suppliers concern product assessment activities undertaken to assist local authorities in light of the readiness review. The results of these assessments have all been published on the Department's website at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/integratedchildrenssystem/icstechnicalresources/tech/

under the heading "Supplier compliance summary". Other exchanges antecedent to the published assessments are covered by non-disclosure agreements, as they relate to commercially-sensitive information concerning product compliance and performance.

Mathematics

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on England's position in international ranking in educational attainment in mathematics in each of the last five years. [283628]

Mr. Coaker: Information on England's international rating in mathematics over the last five years is available for pupils aged 10, 14 and 15 from two studies: the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2007 at ages 10 and 14 and, to a lesser extent, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2006 at age 15. England was ranked 7th out of 36 countries at age 10 and 7th out of 49 countries at age 14 in TIMSS 2007. England was ranked 25th out of 57 countries in PISA 2006. However, it should be noted that PISA 2006 did not test the full range of mathematical competencies as mathematics was a subsidiary subject in the study and less than one-third of the available assessment time was given over to it.

Further information is available from the TIMSS 2007 and PISA 2006 National Reports for England and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries.

National Strategies Field Force

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 996W, on schools: standards, how many field forces there are; what the remit of the National Strategies Field Force is; and what expenditure his Department incurred on each of the 10 largest field forces in the latest period for which figures are available. [283238]

Mr. Coaker: We do not hold a definitive list of field forces focused on school standards. One of the principal field forces in this area is the national strategies, which has a wide remit for raising standards of achievement and rates of progression for children and young people in all phases of schools and early years settings. Its principal remit is to support both schools and local authorities to improve teaching and learning, and to develop strategies for whole school improvement. The cost of this field force is given within our answer of 24 June.

In our answer of 21 April we estimated a figure of around £90 milliom in 2008-09 to cover all field force advisers that work directly with LAs and Children's Trust partners. It is difficult to provide a precise breakdown of expenditure on each of these, since they are delivered through a range of mechanisms—some are directly contracted (so the cost of advisors is incorporated within a larger contract), some are located in Government Offices as secondees, and some are employed directly by DCSF or its NDPBs. However, based on the information available, our estimate of the largest (in terms of 2008-09 expenditure) 10 field forces working directly with LAs and Children's Trust partners are listed as follows:

National Strategies Regional and Local Advisers, £30 million

Partnership for Schools Employed and Contracted Advisers c£10 million

Sure Start Children's Centres Advisers, c£8 million

Extended Services Support Advisers, c£6 million

TDA Regional Advisers, c£5 million

Children's Services Advisers (in Government Offices), c£4 million

Together for Disabled Children, advising on short-breaks and parent forums for disabled children and their families, c£3 million

14-19 Regional Field Workers, c£3 million

Academies Advisers, c£2 million

14-19 Regional Advisers c£2 million

Further information on the role of every field force is set out in the National Prospectus for Children's Services Improvement Support, a copy of which will be available in both Libraries.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupil referral units in each local authority area *(a)* provide places for teenage mothers, *(b)* have child care facilities, *(c)* make provision for children with (i) special educational need and (ii) emotional and behavioural difficulties, *(d)* offer full-time provision and *(e)* offer tuition by other providers, according to records held on the Edubase database. [282014]

Mr. Coaker: This requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Source:

EduBase 2.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents in each local authority area appealed against their child's school allocation *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [279554]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information, covering the years 1997/98 to 2006/07, has been placed in the House Libraries. Information for 2007/08 will be published shortly.

Schools: Playing Fields

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have sold land which had been used as playing fields in each year since 1997. [278033]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* Before 1997 there were no figures collected about the loss of school playing fields but there was widespread public concern over the increasing loss of such facilities. Schools and local authorities could sell off playing fields without any restriction and use the sale proceeds however they wished.

Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 stopped the indiscriminate sale of school playing fields. Schools and local authorities must obtain the Secretary of State's approval before they can dispose of their land. The legislation sets out clear criteria for obtaining consent which includes ensuring that the land is genuinely surplus to schools and community groups. Also, any sale proceeds must be used to improve sports or educational facilities.

Since 1997 the Secretary of State has approved 203 applications that involve the sale of an area of land capable of forming a sports pitch of at least 0.2 hectares at schools in England. Of these 99 were at schools that had closed and the land was not needed by any other local school. Of the 104 applications at operating schools, the proceeds of sale will be used to improve the on-site sports facilities in 86 cases. In the other 18 applications the schools will benefit from improved educational facilities. A list of the schools concerned will be placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Transport

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools were recorded by the 2009 school census as (i) walking and (ii) cycling to school; and for how many pupils no transport data were recorded by that census. [282601]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1] [2] and special schools[3]: Mode of travel[4], as at January 2009 (provisional), England

	Number of pupils who walk to school	*Percentage of pupils who walk to school*	*Number of pupils who cycle to school*	*Percentage of pupils who cycle to school*	*Number of pupils for whom travel data were not supplied*	*Percentage of pupils for whom travel data were not supplied*
Primary	2,262,990	55.5	39,520	1.0	150,100	3.7
Secondary	1,296,930	39.7	94,890	2.9	219,640	6.7
Special	2,610	3.0	230	0.3	3,970	4.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] The collection of mode of travel to school data are only mandatory at pupil level for schools with an approved school travel plan. Data were received for 7,057,190 of the total number of 7,430,910 solely registered pupils (excludes boarders).

Source:
School Census.

Social Services: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was among those social services employees for which his Department is responsible in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [283885]

Dawn Primarolo: Children and families' social care workers are employed locally by a range of organisations across the statutory, third and private sectors. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect employer-level data about absences of social care staff or the costs of such absences.

Sure Start Programme: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money his Department allocated to Sure Start initiatives in Coventry in the last 12 months. [283500]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres and predecessor Sure Start local programmes is allocated to local authorities as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and child care grant. The following table sets out Coventry City council's children's centre revenue and capital allocations for the current spending review period, 2008-11. Local authorities have flexibility within the terms of the grant to decide how much they spend on centres.

£

	08/09	*09/10*	*10/11*
Children's centre revenue[1]	6,347,490	7,183,175	7,799,339
Children's centre capital	342,131	705,093	440,460

[1] Revenue figures include the element within the Sure Start Early Years and Child care Grant that is ringfenced for children's centres based on the earlier Sure Start local programmes in Coventry.

Teachers: Vetting

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who have not had a Criminal Records Bureau check; and if he will make a statement. [275451]

Dawn Primarolo: We have not made any estimate of the number of teachers who may not have had a Criminal Records Bureau check. All teachers currently working in the school workforce will have had either an enhanced CRB disclosure or a check against the old police records system if they were in post prior to the introduction of the CRB, and all teachers will also have been checked against the list of those barred from working in educational establishments (List 99). All new appointments, both teaching and support staff, in the school workforce now require an enhanced CRB disclosure under the terms of the School Staffing (England) (No2) Regulations 2006, and those regulations also require schools to maintain a record of the vetting checks they have carried out on their staff. From November 2010 all new appointments to the school sector will have to register with the new vetting and barring scheme, and all existing staff in school will have to register by 2015. The ISA registration process incorporates a CRB check. The CRB collect some statistics on the volume of checks being made in the education sector on a monthly basis.

However, this is for all school staff not just teachers, and some teachers will have had more than one check if they are involved in supply work or work for more than one employer so we would be unable to make an estimate of the number of teachers who have not had a CRB check.

Young People: Carers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of young carers in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby. [282548]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2001 census, which is the only source of nationally comparable data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that there were some 6,000 children and young people aged under 18 in Merseyside who were offering some care to family members, neighbours, friends or others. Data for Crosby are not available but for the Sefton area the figure was 1,000.

The census records young people who are described by the adults in the household as offering care to their families or communities. This includes young people who are responsible for the care of a family member (which is how young carers are usually defined) plus others who may provide more occasional support such as child care for their parents or care for neighbours and friends.

Young People: Public Participation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (a) the effectiveness of his Department's arrangements for the engagement of young people in decision-making and (b) means to increase such engagement. [280747]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government are committed to listening to and reflecting the views of children and young people. We believe that children and young people should be given opportunities to express their opinion in matters that affect their lives.

For example, the Children and Youth Board (CYB) regularly helps shape the Department's thinking and policy making. Most recently the CYB has helped shape the Children's Plan, the Byron Review, and the Play Strategy.

Our White Paper published on 30 June, "Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future: building a 21st century schools system" sets out an entitlement that all pupils should have the opportunity to say what they think of their school and how it could be improved.

Aiming High, the Department's 10 Year Youth Strategy, set out our commitment to engaging young people in decision making at a local level by empowering them to have greater influence over the services that are provided for young people in their area. Over one and a half million young people have benefited from initiatives such as Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds which require not only that funding applications are made by young people, but that young people are part of the panel that decides which applications are successful. An independent evaluation carried out last year showed that the empowerment of young people through these funds is not only leading to increased participation in higher quality things to do and places to go, but challenging stereotypes and perceptions of young people in our communities.

We have also issued "Working Together: Listening to the voices of children and young people" which promotes the participation of children and young people in decision-making in school, local authority and related settings. 99 per cent. of schools have pupil voice activity and 95 per cent. have a student council, (Institute of Education, September 2007).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people undertaking apprenticeships are *(a)* new recruits to and *(b)* existing staff in the organisation employing them. [282733]

Kevin Brennan: This information is not currently collected. In England, more than 130,000 employers offer Apprenticeships because they understand the benefits that apprentices bring to their business—increased productivity, improved competitiveness and a committed and competent workforce. Employers use Apprenticeships to ensure that their workforce has the practical skills and qualifications they need either as part of an organisation's recruitment strategy or as part of their workforce development strategy.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of apprentices starting this year who are *(a)* new employees hired as apprentices and *(b)* existing employees converting to apprentices; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last three years. [283961]

Kevin Brennan: This information is not currently collected.

Basic Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* research and *(b)* total cost was of preparing and publishing the Evaluation of the impact of skills for life learning report. [279889]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1065W and on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1310W.

Business: Political Donations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit small companies from making donations to political parties. [284205]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no current plans to do so.

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and the Political Parties and Elections Bill which is before Parliament, require certain conditions to be satisfied in order for donors to be deemed permissible. Under the 2000 Act, for a company to be a permissible donor, it must be registered under the Companies Act 1985 or the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, incorporated within the United Kingdom or another member state in the European Union, and must carry on business in the United Kingdom. The Political Parties and Elections Bill contains measures to strengthen the controls on political donations—including those from companies—by requiring all donations over £7,500 to be accompanied by a declaration as to the identity of the true donor.

Businesses: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Tamworth constituency were declared bankrupt in each of the last five years. [283846]

Ian Lucas: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies among traders in Tamworth constituency for each of the last five years.

Table 1

Year[1]	*Bankruptcies among traders in Tamworth constituency*[2, 3]
2004	20
2005	10
2006	14
2007	5
2008	16

[1] The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. From October 2006 the Standard Industry Classification 2003 has been in use and there have been associated changes to the method used to identify traders among bankrupts. The period covered should not, therefore, be treated as a consistent time series.

[2] Classifying bankrupts into electoral geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a constituency is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[3] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to about 3 per cent. in 2008.

Note:

Company liquidation statistics are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1198-99W, on chronic fatigue syndrome, who the members of the panel of experts are; and how often it has *(a)* met and *(b)* reported on its findings. [283743]

Mr. Lammy: The membership of the expert group set up by the Medical Research Council is as follows:

Professor Jill Belch (Chair)—University of Dundee,
Professor Stephen Holgate—University of Southampton,
Dr. Esther Crawley—University of Bristol,
Professor Philip Cowen—University of Oxford,
Professor Malcolm Jackson—University of Liverpool,
Dr. Jonathan Kerr—St George's University of London,
Professor Ian Kimber—University of Manchester,
Professor Hugh Perry—University of Southampton,
Dr. Derek Pheby—National CFS/ME Observatory,
Professor Anthony Pinching—Pennisula Medical School,
Dr. Charles Shepherd—ME Association,
Sir Peter Spencer—Action for ME,
Professor Peter White—Bart's and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Expert Group has met twice, in December 2008 and March 2009. The notes of those meetings will be published on the MRC website shortly, and will then be accessible to the public.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects the Export Credits Guarantee Department has supported through its Fixed Rate Export Finance scheme since 1 January 2009; and what the *(a)* date of approval, *(b)* amount of exposure at that date, *(c)* UK company concerned, *(d)* destination country for the export and *(e)* project or product involved was in each case. [283271]

Ian Lucas: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has provided support for one project through its Fixed Rate Export Finance (FREF) scheme since 1 January 2009. The following details are provided as requested:

(a) 21 January 2009

(b) ECGD provided FREF support for $20 million out of a total loan of $42 million guaranteed by the Department. (ECGD obtained reinsurance for the remaining $22 million from COFACE—the French Export Credit Agency)

(c) Balfour Beatty Rail Projects Ltd

(d) Chile

(e) Extension of the Santiago Metro (supply of track, switches and crossings).

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of applications from *(a)* school leavers and *(b)* mature students to higher education institutions for a first degree course in (i) a science, technology, engineering or mathematics subject and (ii) all subjects from school leavers were from (A) women and (B) men in each year since 1997. [282729]

Mr. Lammy: Subject coding changed in 2002/03 so time series before and after are not necessarily comparable.

The latest figures showing applications by age are shown in the tables.

Applications to full-time first degree courses via UCAS from applicants aged 18 and under

	STEM subjects			All subjects		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Number						
1997	190,255	249,085	439,340	581,881	496,566	1,078,447
1998	192,605	251,052	443,657	594,400	499,737	1,094,137
1999	189,111	242,975	432,086	577,865	483,407	1,061,272
2000	184,698	234,488	419,186	564,226	469,084	1,033,310
2001	185,950	235,085	421,035	571,057	476,142	1,047,199
Change in subject coding						
2002	198,011	233,179	431,190	587,495	484,308	1,071,803
2003	207,287	234,016	441,303	606,532	495,569	1,102,101
2004	208,847	229,896	438,743	611,088	494,385	1,105,473
2005	231,572	247,260	478,832	667,416	535,329	1,202,745
2006	235,496	249,907	485,403	667,263	537,803	1,205,066
2007	240,087	252,065	492,152	683,457	548,055	1,231,512
Change in maximum number of applications						
2008	212,269	225,825	438,094	608,135	487,357	1,095,492
Proportion (Percentage)						
1997	43	57	100	54	46	100
1998	43	57	100	54	46	100
1999	44	56	100	54	46	100
2000	44	56	100	55	45	100
2001	44	56	100	55	45	100
Change in subject coding						
2002	46	54	100	55	45	100
2003	47	53	100	55	45	100
2004	48	52	100	55	45	100
2005	48	52	100	55	45	100
2006	49	51	100	55	45	100
2007	49	51	100	55	45	100
2008	48	52	100	56	44	100

Applications to full-time first degree courses via UCAS from applicants aged 19-20

	STEM subjects			All subjects		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Number						
1997	82,947	113,259	196,206	269,444	251,571	521,015
1998	82,568	113,227	195,795	280,956	260,525	541,481
1999	85,841	118,197	204,038	285,449	266,680	552,129
2000	83,289	116,665	199,954	267,239	255,220	522,459
2001	80,974	115,532	196,506	263,833	253,292	517,125
Change in subject coding						
2002	81,052	110,857	191,909	258,703	247,489	506,192
2003	84,602	111,508	196,110	271,369	256,044	527,413
2004	91,742j	114,601	206,343	288,370	269,287	557,657
2005	100,333	123,083	223,416	309,161	288,920	598,081
2006	99,383	120,189	219,572	298,240	276,044	574,284
2007	114,491	136,585	251,076	351,204	320,173	671,377
Change in maximum number of applications						
2008	103,066	127,449	230,515	323,668	299,086	622,754
Proportion (Percentage)						
1997	42	58	100	52	48	100
1998	42	58	100	52	48	100
1999	42	58	100	52	48	100
2000	42	58	100	51	49	100
2001	41	59	100	51	49	100
Change in subject coding						
2002	42	58	100	51	49	100
2003	43	57	100	51	49	100
2004	44	56	100 j	52	48	100
2005	45	55	100	52	48	100
2006	45	55	100	52	48	100
2007	46	54	100	52	48	100
2008	45	55	100	52	48	100

Applications to full-time first degree courses via UCAS from applicants aged 21 and over

	STEM subjects			All subjects		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Number						
1997	52,840	74,391	127,231	164,446	164,713	329,159
1998	49,028	66,088	115,116	154,752	149,573	304,325
1999	47,101	59,023	106,124	140,777	132,464	273,241
2000	47,679	58,897	106,576	128,568	120,212	248,780
2001	48,626	62,382	111,008	128,884	127,180	256,064
Change in subject coding						
2002	53,375	68,034	121,409	137,169	134,977	272,146
2003	62,412	71,698	134,110	147,196	143,446	290,642
2004	69,806	76,350	146,156	160,453	151,392	311,845
2005	79,366	83,897	163,263	184,848	168,530	353,378
2006	79,885	77,808	157,693	186,528	155,813	342,341
2007	82,744	78,876	161,620	198,601	162,190	360,791
Change in maximum number of applications						
2008	79,576	74,446	154,022	187,557	152,867	340,424
Proportion (Percentage)						
1997	42	58	100	50	50	100
1998	43	57	100	51	49	100
1999	44	56	100	52	48	100
2000	45	55	100	52	48	100
2001	44	56	100	50	50	100
Change in subject coding						
2002	44	56	100	50	50	100
2003	47	53	100	51	49	100
2004	48	52	100	51	49	100

Applications to full-time first degree courses via UCAS from applicants aged 21 and over

	STEM subjects			All subjects		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
2005	49	51	100	52	48	100
2006	51	49	100	54	46	100
2007	51	49	100	55	45	100
2008	52	48	100	55	45	100

Notes on UCAS application data:

1. In the academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08 each applicant could make up to six choices on their application form; in 2008 this was decreased to five.

2. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are defined as the following subject groups:

Medicine and Dentistry, Subjects allied to Medicine, Biological Sciences, Vet Science, Agriculture and related, Physical Sciences, Mathematical and Comp Science, Engineering, Technologies, Architecture, Building and Planning, Combined Sciences. The tables above use this definition.

3. From 2002 entry, UCAS switched from using the Standard Academic Classification of Subjects (SCAS) to the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). Data reported for 2008 entry use JACS2, an updated version of JACS. For further information see:

http://www.ucas.ac.uk/he_staff/datamanagement/jacs/jacs20

4. From 2005, the former Social Work Admissions System (SWAS) was incorporated into the main UCAS system, therefore a small number of Social Work Postgraduate courses will be included in the data from 2005 onwards.

Source:

UCAS.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire were admitted to universities in England in each of the last five years. [283851]

Mr. Lammy: The number of all-aged entrants to higher education institutions in England from the Tamworth constituency and Staffordshire local authority area are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in January 2010.

Entrants[1] from Tamworth parliamentary constituency[2] and Staffordshire local authority area[2] English higher education institutions: Academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Tamworth	*Staffordshire*
2003-04	815	10,220
2004-05	750	9,585
2005-06	800	9,760
2006-07	855	9,360
2007-08	825	9,805

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the parliamentary constituency and local authority area of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

2. Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Forensic Science

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on which universities offer *(a)* degrees and *(b)* other qualifications in forensic science. [283599]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. The HESA indicates that there are some 60 higher education institutions that offer forensic science as a principal subject. Information based on the 2008/09 academic year will be available in 2010.

The Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) website provides a detailed list of forensic science undergraduate courses offered by UK higher education courses for entry in 2009 and 2010 at the following web link:

http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/

UK higher education institutions providing forensic science as a principal level of study[1], academic year 2007/08

	Level of Study			
Institution	*Post graduate*	*Under graduate*	*Foundation degree*	*Other[2]*
Anglia Ruskin University	X	X	—	—
Bangor University	—	X	—	—
Bournemouth University	X	X	X	—
Canterbury Christ Church University	X	X	—	X
Cardiff University	X	X	—	—
Coventry University	X	X	—	—
Cranfield University	X	—	—	X
De Montfort University	—	X	—	—
Glasgow Caledonian University	—	X	—	—
Glyndwr University	—	X	X	—
Heriot-Watt University	X	—	—	—
Kings College London	X	—	—	—
Kingston University	X	X	—	—
Leeds Metropolitan University	—	X	—	—
Liverpool John Moores University	—	X	—	—
London Metropolitan University	X	X	—	—
London South Bank University	X	X	—	—
Loughborough University	—	X	—	—
Middlesex University	—	X	—	—
Napier University	—	X	—	—
Queen Mary and Westfield College	—	X	X	—
Sheffield Hallam University	X	X	—	—
Staffordshire University	X	X	—	—
Thames Valley University	—	X	X	—
The Manchester Metropolitan University	—	X	—	—
The Nottingham Trent University	—	X	X	—
The Robert Gordon University	—	X	—	—
University College London	X	X	—	—
University of Bradford	—	X	—	—
University of Central	—	X	X	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—
University of Chester	—	X	—	—
University of Cumbria	—	X	X	—
University of Derby	—	X	—	—
University of Dundee	X	X	—	—
University of Durham	—	X	—	X

UK higher education institutions providing forensic science as a principal level of study[1], academic year 2007/08

	Level of Study			
Institution	*Post graduate*	*Under graduate*	*Foundation degree*	*Other[2]*
University of East London	—	X	—	—
University of Edinburgh	X	—	—	—
University of Glamorgan	—	X	X	—
University of Greenwich	—	X	—	X
University of Huddersfield	X	X	—	X
University of Hull	X	X	—	—
University of Keele	—	X	—	—
University of Kent	—	X	—	—
University of Leicester	X	X	—	—
University of Lincoln	X	X	—	—
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	X	—	—	—
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	X	—	—	—
University of Plymouth	—	X	X	—
University of Portsmouth	—	X	—	—
University of Sheffield	X	X	—	—
University of Strathclyde	X	X	—	—
University of Surrey	—	X	—	—
University of Sussex	—	X	—	—
University of Teesside	X	X	X	—
University of the West of England, Bristol	—	X	—	—
University of the West of Scotland	—	X	—	X
University of Ulster	X	—	—	—
University of Wales, Lampeter	—	X	—	X
University of Wolverhampton	—	X	—	X
University of Worcester	—	X	—	—

[1] Covers full-time and part-time enrolments to course where forensic science is the principal subject or combined with archaeological science.

[2] HND/HE Diplomas, Other sub-degree and further education courses.

Note:

X denotes institutions who offer forensic science course as principal standalone subject or combined.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Insolvency: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Hemel Hempstead constituency were declared bankrupt in each of the last five years. [284489]

Ian Lucas: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies among traders in Hemel Hempstead constituency for each of the last five years.

Table 1

Year[1]	*Bankruptcies among traders in Hemel Hempstead constituency[2,3]*
2004	24
2005	21
2006	16
2007	19
2008	25

1 The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. From October 2006 the Standard Industry Classification 2003 has been in use and there have been associated changes to the method used to identify traders amongst bankrupts. The period covered should not, therefore, be treated as a consistent time series.

2 Classifying bankrupts into electoral geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a constituency is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

3 In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to about 3 per cent. in 2008.

Note:

Company liquidation statistics are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 98W, on motor vehicles: manufacturing industries, whether he plans to assess the effect of the vehicle scrappage scheme on the second-hand car market. [284158]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* I have no plans to carry out a separate assessment. The effect of the vehicle scrappage scheme will be considered as it effects the car industry as a whole.

Oil: Prices

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to mitigate the negative effects of rises in oil prices on business. [281729]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

DECC's objective is to ensure Britain's energy is secure, affordable and efficient. Within these objectives DECC is working towards reducing the risk of high oil prices and ensuring fair retail fuel prices for consumers and businesses.

We recognise the negative effects that oil price volatility has on oil investment, businesses and the economy as a whole. Thus DECC continues to support initiatives for investment needed to provide sufficient oil supplies as the economy recovers. We also support moves to further strengthen transparency and efficiency in the international oil market and seek commitment for this with our international partners and through initiatives like the London Energy Meeting.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for business policy.

Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage trade between the UK and Saudi Arabia. [283317]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supports business with Saudi Arabia through trade and investment teams based in Saudi Arabia and the UK. In addition to a 20-strong team in Riyadh, Jeddah and Al Khobar, UKTI also employs a business specialist focused specifically on identifying supply chain opportunities in Saudi Arabia arising from the Saudi Government's Fiscal Stimulus packages.

UKTI funds and provides secretariat support for the Saudi-British Joint Business Council. The Council identifies new business opportunities and also focuses on ways to tackle barriers to trade and improve the environment for business.

UKTI provides a broad range of support for British companies wishing to do business in Saudi Arabia—from conferences and trade missions to support for trade fairs and exhibitions. Over recent months, events aimed at promoting business with Saudi Arabia (and the wider Gulf region) have been held in Bristol, the north east, Yorkshire, London and Northern Ireland.

UKTI organised a visit to the UK by the Governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), HE Amr al Dabbagh, in June 2009. In addition to a business showcase in Buckingham Palace on 17 June, hosted by HRH the Duke of York, UKTI also staged a Two Kingdoms Trade and Investment Conference on 18 June, which focused on opportunities in health care, education, transport, energy and financial services, and in which 150 British companies participated.

A Double Taxation Agreement with Saudi Arabia came into force in December 2008 and a bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (IPPA) is currently under negotiation and likely to be signed later this year.

Vocational Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from *(a)* training providers and *(b)* further education colleges on (i) Train to Gain and (ii) apprenticeship places in 2009-10. [283014]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1 April there have been 185 letters received on a whole range of topics regarding Train to Gain and apprenticeships. It is not possible to identify precisely how many of these letters would have raised the issue of places available in 2009-10, as this could be one of a number of points raised in such a letter. Of the letters received six were directly from further education colleges, five from training providers and a further 60 from MPs.

Ministers are also involved in regular discussions with the Association of Colleges and the Association of Learning Providers as well as visits with individual colleges and training providers where they discuss a wide range of issues including the current position of the Train to Gain and Apprenticeship programmes.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the Learning and Skills Council funding allocation for 2009-10 to providers of Train to Gain and apprenticeship training he expects to be spent on learners who started their courses in 2008-09. [282841]

Kevin Brennan: The success of Train to Gain means that we expect that over the two years 2008-09 and 2009-10 to deliver 100,000 more starts and learners than we had previously planned.

The contract values that have now been issued to providers for the 2009-10 academic year ensure that we will remain within the overall budget. These contract values cover the costs of both continuing learners as well as new starts. The precise funding required for continuing learners will depend on actual performance in 2008-09 and will need to be managed within the overall budgets available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council *(a)* has distributed to training providers for 2008-09 and *(b)* expects to distribute to training providers in 2009-10 for (i) Train to Gain learners, (ii) apprentices aged between 16 and 18 years, (iii) apprentices aged between 19 and 24 years, (iv) adult apprentices and (v) other training programmes. [282955]

Kevin Brennan: The budget available for Train to Gain through the Learning and Skills Council in the 2008-09 financial year is £797 million and £925 million for the 2009-10 financial year. The actual amount of funding that is paid to training providers will depend on performance during the year, and the actual amount of training delivered.

In 2008-09 financial year the budget available for 16 to 18-year-old Apprenticeships is £628 million, £266 million for 19 to 24-year-old Apprenticeships and £67 million for Apprenticeships for those over 25. In 2009-10 there is £708 million available for 16 to 18-year-old Apprenticeships, £273 million for 19 to 24-year-old Apprenticeships and £117 million for Apprenticeships for those over 25. As for Train to Gain the actual amount of funding that is paid to training providers will depend on their performance during the year and the actual amount of training delivered.

The LSC will report the actual spend on both Train to Gain and Apprenticeships during the 2008-09 financial year as part of their annual report, due to be published shortly.

TREASURY

Bank Services: EU Countries

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of UK citizens who have deposits with banks in *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* other EU member states. [284126]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As a matter of course, HM Treasury [illegible] not comment on individual financial institutions.

Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what compliance referencing of council tax lists is undertaken by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* billing authorities. [283773]

Mr. Timms: No compliance referencing is carried out in relation to council tax lists by the Valuation Office Agency.

No information is held centrally for billing authorities and therefore it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment the Valuation Office Agency has made of the outcome of integrity checks of council tax lists in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [283734]

Mr. Timms: The VOA will shortly report in its annual report for 2008-09 an achievement of 94 per cent. compliance with valuation integrity standards in its work on council tax and non-domestic rating lists in England and Wales against a target of 93 per cent. The agency uses this information in its drive for continuous improvement.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use has been made of the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool in relation to properties in respect of which no formal appeal has been lodged. [283837]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool has been used to assist staff when reviewing existing council tax bands, whether or not there has been a formal proposal to alter the council tax valuation list, and when placing bands on new or altered dwellings.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate had been made of the gross cost to the Exchequer of the planned 2005 council tax revaluation prior to its postponement. [284076]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 25 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 327W.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the gross cost to the public purse of the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales. [284077]

Mr. Hain: I have been asked to respond.

Figures supplied by the Valuation Office Agency indicate that the total costs of delivering the revaluation in Wales, up to 31 March 2005, were £5.198 million.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff over the age of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years his Department employs. [278122]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Statistics for staff employed by all civil service departments are compiled and published by the Office for National Statistics from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey and are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Finance: Housing

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reduction in spending he is making to accommodate the £1,500 million increase in housing expenditure announced in the Prime Minister's Statement on Building Britain's Future on 29 June 2009. [283542]

Mr. Byrne: There is no additional borrowing as a result of the affordable housing announcement in Building Britain's Future.

In 2009-10 and 2010-11 the additional resources for housing will all come from within existing budgets. This has been achieved by reprioritisation within the Department for Communities and Local Government's budget and the reallocation of anticipated underspends from the Home Office, the Department for Transport, the Department of Health and the Department for Children Schools and Families.

Finance: Non-Profit Making Associations

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of access to credit by the social enterprise sector. [282579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are taking action to ensure competitively priced credit continues to be available. On 19 January 2009, the Government announced a package of measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These measures build on those announced on 8 October last year.

As a condition of accessing the Asset Protection Scheme, the Government have agreed legally binding lending commitments with Lloyds and RBS. These commitments will see Lloyds lend an additional £14 billion, and RBS an additional £25 billion, on commercial terms (and subject to market demand), over the 12 months from March 2009. The Government will report annually to Parliament on the delivery of these commitments.

The Government also announced in the Budget that, to support the long-term growth of a thriving third sector, it would consult on the design and functions of a Social Investment Wholesale Bank.

Financial Institutions: Consultants

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was paid to external advisers by *(a)* Northern Rock, *(b)* RBS, *(c)* other financial sector firms in which the Government own a shareholding and *(d)* other financial sector firms in which the Government have been involved in recent restructuring for goods and services delivered to (i) his Department and (ii) the Bank of England during (A) 2008 and (B) 2009 to date. [283861]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury's external adviser fees will be shared between the banks participating in the Government's financial intervention schemes. Professional advisory fees incurred by the Treasury for the Northern Rock are shown in the Treasury's resource accounts 2007-08, which is available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annualreportandaccounts200708050908.pdf

Figures for the Treasury's spending in 2008-09 will be available in the department's resource accounts 2008-09 after the conclusion of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit. Reporting the cost which the Bank of England incurs is a matter for the Bank.

UK Financial Investments (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions as an active and engaged shareholder, operating on a commercial basis and at arm's length from Government. The framework document between HM Treasury and UKFI sets a requirement that UKFI will not intervene in the day-to-day management decisions of investee companies, with the companies retaining their own independent boards, which will manage the banks and determine their strategy.

It is a matter for the banks' management to release specific business information and updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Fuels

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which local authorities have been fined by HM Revenue and Customs since January 2008 for using red diesel in local authority tractors and agricultural vehicles. [284027]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Where HMRC deals with irregularities other than by prosecution, such as by assessment of duty, it is not its practice to publish the details of individual cases. The total duty assessed in cases of misuse of red diesel, and the number of cases where misuse has been detected, are published in HMRC Autumn Performance Reports at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Home Information Packs: VAT

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on which elements of home information packs valued added tax is levied; [284080]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the revenue which has accrued to the Exchequer from value added tax on home information packs. [284079]

Mr. Timms: The normal VAT liability rules apply when the constituent parts of a home information pack (HIP) are purchased from a VAT registered business. VAT will usually be chargeable, although Land Registry search fees are normally VAT free.

VAT will also be due on any fee charged by a VAT registered agent in connection with the compilation of a HIP.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs do not collect data on VAT raised from individual goods and services.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on housing: valuation, in which locality in the valuation area of Westminster the dwelling with billing authority reference T2902011000007 is located. [284275]

Mr. Timms: As at 1 July 2009, the Valuation Office Agency has this dwelling in Locality 37 of Westminster Billing Authority. The Billing Authorities of Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea comprise a single valuation area.

Local Taxation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's performance target on value for money from local taxation, what methodology is used to calculate yield from local taxation; [283996]

(2) what targets have been set for the Valuation Office Agency on value for money in relation to *(a)* local taxation and *(b)* inheritance tax; when those targets were set; and how performance against those targets is measured. [284078]

Mr. Timms: I announced the key performance indicators and targets for the Valuation Office Agency for 2009-10 to the House by written ministerial statement on 10 June 2009. They include:

To improve overall value for money on local taxation work by 3 per cent.

To improve value for money on inheritance tax work for HMRC by 5 per cent.

Value for money for local taxation work is calculated as a weighted index of measures covering timeliness, quality and volume of work divided by total cost.

That for inheritance tax work is measured by comparing the Agency's costs with the estimated tax achieved. In managing its performance against this indicator, the Agency targets resources to those cases requiring adjustment to ensure that the correct amount of tax due is paid.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 796W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 2 February 2009 on his constituent Dr Paul Carslake; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [278621]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 23 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr K Williams. [280433]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Money Laundering

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of anti-money laundering legislation in preventing people with connections with corrupt regimes having accounts with regulated banks; [284270]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Financial Services Authority on politically-exposed persons and bank accounts operated by regulated institutions. [284263]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The UK has a robust anti-money laundering regime. When last evaluated by the Financial Action Task Force, the international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standard-setting body, the UK achieved one of the highest overall compliance ratings of any country.

Since then we have continued to improve the effectiveness of the UK's regime; in particular, through the introduction in December 2007 of new money laundering regulations. These regulations require banks, and other regulated businesses, to undertake comprehensive customer due diligence checks, including identifying any beneficial owners involved. Enhanced due diligence procedures are required in higher-risk situations, including where the client is a politically exposed person.

HM Treasury has regular discussions on the effectiveness of the money laundering regulations with business stakeholders and public partners, such as the FSA, and in the specific case of politically exposed persons (PEP's), also with the Department for International Development. Discussions on PEPs are held both bilaterally and in several fora, including the Money Laundering Advisory Committee, that bring together cross-sector and cross-Whitehall participants.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses to calculate the rateable value of supermarket car parking spaces for the 2010 rates revaluation. [283844]

Mr. Timms: Supermarket car parking spaces will usually be assessed and valued as part of a supermarket rather than separately, having regard to the level of rents paid on it and other supermarkets. For the 2010 rates revaluation, the level of rent as at 1 April 2008 will be adopted.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency holds records of the location of each mobile telephone mast for the purposes of the 2010 rates revaluation; and what data mobile telephone operators are required to provide to the Agency. [284045]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office holds records of the location of every mobile phone mast it has identified and assessed to non-domestic rates in England and Wales in respect of the current 2005 rating lists. The 2010 Revaluation will be based on the current assessments identified on the 2005 rating list and any new assessments raised before 1 April 2010.

Once a valuation officer has identified the location and address of a mobile phone mast it can send a statutory request under paragraph 5 of schedule 9 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended, requesting specified information from the operator in order to raise a non-domestic rating assessment. The data requested include tenure and site sharing information.

Non-Domestic Rates: Bingo

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance has been issued to bingo operators on whether the prohibition of smoking in public places represents a material change of circumstance for the purposes of the calculation of business rates levied on bingo halls. [284286]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) held discussions with the professional advisers to the bingo industry prior to the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places in April 2007 (in Wales) and July 2007 (in England).

Once the ban had been agreed as a material change of circumstance, the VOA notified the Bingo Association in writing on 27 November 2008 that the rating assessments for all the bingo halls in England and Wales would be reviewed following the introduction of the ban.

Private Finance Initiative: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of schemes under the private finance initiative in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [284323]

Ian Pearson: All local authority PFI projects seeking PFI credits are subject to an assessment by the Projects Review Group (PRG), which is chaired by HM Treasury.

Minutes of the PRG meetings held in 2008 and 2009 can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_projectreview_group.htm

A list of all signed PFI projects can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the evidence given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to the House of Lords Committee on the Barnett Formula on 17 June 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the study of the relative expenditure needs of the four countries of the United Kingdom carried out in 1984. [283513]

Mr. Byrne: Today, I have placed a copy of the 1984 update to the Needs Assessment Study in the Library of the House.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the expenditure proposals contained in Annex A of the Building Britain's Future document will have a Barnett consequential for Wales. [283976]

Mr. Byrne: The funding announced in 'Building Britain's Future' is based on existing provision, including reprioritisation, and therefore does not attract Barnett consequentials.

Quantitative Easing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the scale of quantitative easing undertaken by the *(a)* US Federal Reserve and *(b)* European Central Bank. [283586]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Monetary policy in the euro-area and United States are matters for the European Central Bank and Federal Reserve respectively. It is not for the Government to comment on their specific policy decisions.

Revenue and Customs: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days' training has been given on average to a front line customs officer on the introduction of the points-based immigration system. [282988]

Mr. Woolas: On average frontline Border Force Officers complete at least three quarters of a day dedicated to training on the points based system.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make of data on social housing gathered by the National Register of Social Housing. [284480]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has used postcode level information from the National Register of Social Housing (NRoSH) database, in conjunction with its own data, to help identify social housing. The VOA has no current plans to use NRoSH data.

Valuation Office: Freedom of Information

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 772W, on the Valuation Office: freedom of information, and the subsequent deposited paper DEP2009-1797, if he will publish for each of the listed *(a)* freedom of information and *(b)* environmental information regulation requests details of the information requested. [283970]

Mr. Timms: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: Marketing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to replace its world class branding. [284079]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's ambition, set out in its Forward Plan for 2009-12, published on its website at

www.voa.gov.uk

is to be recognised both nationally and internationally for its expertise, achievement and innovation in the valuation services it provides. As the recent Framework Review recognised (report published on the HMRC website) at

www.hmrc.gov.uk

the VOA has been successfully striving to improve its customer service, consistent with HM Government's ambition to provide world class public services. The recommendation in the Framework Review report regarding the use of the term "world class" relates to ensuring that all staff in the Agency and its stakeholders properly understand its aims. This and other recommendations made by the Framework Review are currently being considered.

Valuation: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors are taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency when deciding whether to allocate a dwelling an SC value significant code. [284762]

Mr. Timms: The value significant code SC may be used to indicate that a property was in poor state of repair when sold—to the extent that this affected the value of the property at the date of sale. The Valuation Office Agency does not provide specific guidance to its staff on when to use the code—it is a matter of local knowledge and judgment. General guidance on the use of all its dwelling-house codes is published on the VOA's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications/dwellinghousecodingguide/files/contents.htm

Water: Meters

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 7.7 of the Minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation (Practice and Procedure) between England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland of 6-7 May 2009, which EU directive is expected to require all properties to have water meters. [284142]

Mr. Timms: Paragraph 7.7 is a record of what was stated by the Republic of Ireland representative. No EU directive is expected to require UK properties to have water meters.

Zero Carbon Stamp Duty Exemption

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes had qualified for the zero carbon stamp duty exemption on the latest date for which figures are available. [284074]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic dwellings have qualified for the zero carbon stamp duty exemption. [284918]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have set a deliberately stretching target that all new homes must be zero carbon by 2016. The stamp duty land tax relief (SDLT) for zero carbon homes was introduced to help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of micro-generation, and sets a gold standard for green homes. Few currently exist, but the purpose of the relief is to act as signal. We have always made it clear that the SDLT relief for zero carbon homes would evolve and we expect to see more of these homes built in the future. 21 homes have qualified for the zero carbon homes relief since October 2007.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 8 July 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280951]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The estimate from carbon dioxide emissions from offices is as follows:

Tonnes of carbon dioxide

In total

2006-07: 4,615

2007-08: 2,251

Per full-time equivalent member of staff

2006-07: 5.560

2007-08: 3.19

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport of administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281003]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has made the following estimate of carbon dioxide arising from road-based transport of administrative operations.

Total

2006-07: 3.309 tonnes of CO_2

2007-08: 4.39 tonnes of CO_2

Per full-time equivalent member of staff

2006-07: .005 tonnes of CO_2

2007-08: .006 tonnes of CO_2.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281004]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has made the following estimate on the amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel from staff:

Total

2006-07: 172 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions

2007-08: 125.78 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions

Per full-time equivalent member of staff

2006-07: 0.207 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions

2007-08: 0.16 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280548]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not collected data on the amount of expenditure spent on energy efficiency measures on its estate.

Details of the Department's future plans for energy efficiency measures can be found in the August 2008 Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate Delivery Plan and the December 2008 Delivery Plan Update.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280952]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's estimate of energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff is as follows:

2006-07: 16,343 kwh/FTE

2007-08: 8,109 kwh/FTE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department *(a)* on drink, *(b)* on food and *(c)* overall in relation to the departmental function held on 23 June 2009; and if he will list the people invited by his Department. [283695]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* The Department spent £243.25 on drinks and £600.00 on food (the overall cost was £1,251.25 which includes catering staff, equipment hire and delivery) for the function held on 23 June 2009. The people invited were journalists covering DCMS sectors.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste his Department recycled in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [281002]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport produced the following volume and percentage of waste:

2006-07

Figures are not available

2007-08

Volume: 60 tonnes

Recycled: 80 per cent.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281001]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has made the following estimate of the amount of waste arising:

Total

2006-07: 2,070 tonnes

2007-08: 187.32 tonnes

Per full-time equivalent member of staff

2006-07: 2.49 tonnes/FTE

2007-08: 0.27 tonnes/FTE.

Departmental Water

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280950]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has made the following estimate of water consumption on the office estate:

Estimated water consumption (m^3)

Total

2005-06: 8,423

2006-07: 7,424

Per full-time equivalent member of staff

2005-06: 15

2006-07: 10.52

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment was made of the appropriateness of the Vector armoured vehicle for use in Afghanistan before its acquisition in 2006. [284853]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Vector Light Protected Patrol Vehicle passed a variety of appropriate tests and trials prior to its entry into service to ensure it met the threat as it was assessed at the time. Due to the way that the threat has evolved since 2006, it is the intention to withdraw Vector from operations in Afghanistan .

Armed Forces: Higher Education

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many doctorates of philosophy studies his Department funded for military students attending a civilian university in each of the last four years. [284522]

Bill Rammell: During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, 983 post graduate qualifications, specifically related to military training and education requirements, were funded for military personnel. The statistics held do not distinguish between the types of qualification, although future returns will identify PhDs and Masters Degrees separately.

The specific information requested on PhDs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Fighter Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the operational deployment of the third tranche of Typhoon; and how many squadrons the third tranche of Typhoon will comprise when the delivery is completed. [284595]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 July, *Official Report*, column 558W. The placement of Tranche 3 aircraft across the current planned Typhoon Squadrons has not yet been decided and as such there has been no decision about their operational deployment.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pension payment to a member of the *(a)* Gurkha Pension Scheme and *(b)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [284418]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The latest available figures for the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) relate to financial year 2007-08. This period has therefore been used for the figures given for the average monthly payments made under both schemes:

Gurkha Pension Scheme (GPS): £122.64

AFPS: £578.41

These figures are based upon average pensions paid to former members of the armed forces, their spouses, and dependants. These averages are not comparable because of different lengths of service, different rank structure between the Brigade of Gurkhas and the wider Army and, chiefly, because Gurkhas begin drawing on their pensions much earlier than British soldiers with equivalent service. For example, a Gurkha Rifleman or Corporal with 15 years service (approximately 85 per cent. of those receiving GPS payments) can claim an immediate pension after 15 years service (from age 33) whereas equivalent service under the AFPS would not attract pension payments until age 60.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department calculated its estimate of the £1.5 billion required to give Gurkhas on the Gurkha Pension Scheme a retrospective pension equivalent to their UK counterparts. [284419]

Mr. Kevan Jones: £1.5 billion is an estimate of the capitalised cost of providing retired Gurkhas with Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) equivalent pension benefits for all pensionable service before 1 July 1997.

The estimate was calculated by the Government Actuary's Department and identifies the additional capitalised cost that would be incurred if benefits of equivalent value to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme were granted for all pensionable service before 1 July 1997, on the same terms as provided for post-1 July 1997 service in the Gurkha Offer to Transfer exercise. The estimated cost is based on the assumptions and methodology applied in the Gurkha Offer to Transfer, and assumes that the profile of Gurkha pensioners and dependants who retired before 1 July 1997 is similar to those that retired post 1 July 1997.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the Gurkha pension scheme to extend eligibility to those veterans who left the Brigade prior to 1997; and if he will make a statement. [284651]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Gurkha veterans who left the Army before 1 July 1997 are already eligible for benefits from the Gurkha Pension Scheme.

The hon. Member may have in mind the question of whether such individuals should be eligible for benefits from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme in the same way as those who left the Army on or after 1 July 1997. The High Court agreed in July 2008 that it was fair and reasonable for the Department to use this date as a cut-off point for eligibility for the pensions offer in 2007-08.

Although annual payments to British soldiers will eventually be higher than Gurkhas, with the same 15 years service, Gurkhas pensions begin paying out much earlier (as young as 33) whereas the British soldiers preserved rights do not become payable until age 60.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unexploded improvised explosive devices were discovered by UK troops in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [283549]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Met Office: Cost Effectiveness

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether officials of his Department have met officials from the Shareholder Executive to discuss opportunities for private sector partners to develop specific services to complement those of the Met Office. [284770]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group is comprised of officials from the Ministry of Defence, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury and the Met Office and meets regularly in undertaking the review.

This group is responsible for taking forward all aspects of the Met Office review as set out in the OEP Final Report published in April 2009. While exploring all options and opportunities, initial discussions began regarding opportunities for engaging with private sector partners. However, this aspect of the work is at an early stage, and more detailed work on this topic will be taking place over the coming months. A further update on progress of the review will be provided with the pre-Budget report.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the reference in the Operational Efficiency Programme to the greater involvement of the private sector with the Met Office includes involvement by *(a)* the private weather sector and *(b)* private equity. [284771]

Mr. Kevan Jones: An update on progress of the Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) review was provided in the OEP Final Report published April 2009. The update included reference to the potential expansion of commercial operations at the Met Office, possibly through the introduction of private capital in some areas, as well as seeking opportunities to develop specific services with private sector partners to complement Met Office's business. The private weather sector were involved in the Trading Fund Assessment work. Further involvement of the private sector, which could in principle include involvement by the private weather sector and private equity, will be considered as we develop more detailed work over the coming months. A further update on progress of the review will be provided with the pre-Budget report.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times each type of aircraft has *(a)* come under fire and *(b)* been damaged by enemy fire in Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [284536]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military bases his Department have closed in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998; [283321]

(2) how many military bases his Department has in Northern Ireland; and how many such bases it *(a)* owned and *(b)* operated in each year since 1998. [283324]

Bill Rammell: The information requested on the number of operational and closed military bases in Northern Ireland and the terms on which they were occupied, in each year since 1998, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Government's Security Strategy Paper published in December 1999 recorded 72 open and 34 closed military sites including regular military bases, training areas, joint Police Service Northern Ireland/military bases, communication sites, and observation towers.

Further information on open and closed military sites from 31 May 2004 is included in the second, ninth, eleventh, fourteenth and sixteenth reports of the International Monitoring Commission (IMC), copies of which are available in the Library of the House. These reports can also be found on the IMC website:

http://www.independentmonitoringcommission.org

In particular, the sixteenth report explains the terms on which the military occupied the sites and the arrangements for their disposal.

The current regular Northern Ireland Garrison bases and the terms on which they are occupied are as follows:

RAF Aldergrove (Freehold)

Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler (Freehold)

Ballykinler Training Camp (Freehold)

Divis Key Point (on Divis Mountain) (Freehold)

Duke of Connaught Unit, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast (Leasehold)

Massereene Barracks, Antrim (Freehold)

Kinnegar Station, Holywood (Freehold)

Palace Barracks, Holywood (Freehold)

Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn (Freehold)

Magilligan Training Camp (Freehold)

Trident

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned lifespan is of the existing generation of Trident missile warheads; what recent consideration he has given to the practicability of extending that lifespan; and if he will estimate the likely savings to the public purse of undertaking such an extension instead of procuring a replacement system. [284420]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's existing nuclear warhead design is likely to last into the 2020s, although we do not yet have sufficient information to judge precisely how long we can retain it in service. We are currently undertaking detailed studies to assess this and potential options for replacement should that be necessary. It is too soon to estimate the precise timing and the potential costs of any options beyond the £2-3 billion estimate, at 2006-07 prices, given in the 2006 Defence White Paper.

WALES

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what categories of personal information on members of the public are contained on each database which contains such data managed by his Department and its agencies; when each category of information was first collected; and if he will make a statement. [284899]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not maintain such databases.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff are based at each of his Department's offices. [285407]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office is split between two locations, London and Cardiff Bay. There are 41 staff based in London and 16 staff based in Cardiff Bay. A number of staff divide their time between the two offices.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Tibet

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date his Department amended its procedures for the description on asylum applications of applicants of Tibetan origin; and for what reasons the procedures were amended. [264119]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS, from my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (David Miliband).

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Merseyside aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 24 years old have been (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years. [283189]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of offenders cautioned for alcohol related offences in Merseyside Police Force Area, broken down by age, from 2003-07 can be viewed in Table 1. The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts can be viewed in Table 2 and the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can be viewed in Table 3.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned for alcohol related offences[1] in the Merseyside Police Force Area, broken down by age, 2003-07[2,3,4]

Age	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
10 to 17	199	178	79	19	48
18 to 24	763	340	48	41	54

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s. 12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss. 1 (2)(3)(4) & 1 A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11, 27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(0), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s. 17, 18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] The cautions statistics cover simple and conditional cautions, reprimands and warnings. They relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol related offences, in Merseyside Police Force Area[1], broken down by age. 2003-07[2, 3]

Age	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
10 to 17	241	195	137	127	148
18 to 24	1,453	1,174	860	785	910

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11,27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 19g5 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s. 17, 18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for alcohol related offences[1] in Merseyside Police Force Area, broken down by age. 2004-07[2, 3]

Age	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
16 to 17	223	391	395	354
18 to 24	1,295	1,731	1,547	1,780

[1] Includes offences under the:
Criminal Justice Act 1967 s. 91;
Licensing Act 2003 s. 141, 146(1)(3), 149(1)(3)(4), 150(1)(2), 151;
Licensing Act 1872 s. 12;
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s. 12;

[2] The offence of being 'drunk and disorderly' moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004;
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18, Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery, Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, were added to the scheme on 1 November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a drunken person, Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18, were added to the Scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Crimes of Violence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of burglary, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* vehicle crimes were reported in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Dacorum and (iii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [284319]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in the table. Hemel Hempstead comes within the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and separate figures for Hemel Hempstead are not available centrally.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and figures for violence against the person are now provided.

Selected offences recorded by the police in the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and the Hertfordshire police force area

			Number of offences
Area and year	*Burglary*[1]	*Violence against the person*	*Vehicle crime*[2]
Dacorum			
2003-04	1,446	1,440	2,539
2004-05	1,314	2,073	2,033
2005-06	1,108	1,939	1,535
2006-07	1,149	2,155	1,540
2007-08	924	1,617	1,576
Hertfordshire			
2003-04	12,783	12,356	16,885
2004-05	11,471	16,845	13,548
2005-06	10,656	16,206	12,965
2006-07	9,764	16,890	11,914
2007-08	9,534	13,348	11,366

[1] Includes burglary in a dwelling and other burglary.

[2] Includes theft of or from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to reduce the level of credit card fraud in the last 12 months. [285197]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A great deal of fraud can be prevented if organisations have proper fraud prevention measures in place and if individuals protect their cards and financial details. Prevention initiatives complement fraud investigation and prosecution. The Home Office therefore works closely with the payments card industry and actively supports fraud prevention initiatives introduced by the finance and retail sectors such as the Be Card Smart Online campaign introduced by the payment card industry last year with support from Vernon Coaker. I (Alan Campbell) most recently met with representatives of the payments card industry in March this year to discuss issues around card fraud.

The Government publish fraud prevention advice on the Home Office, Crime Reduction and Consumer Direct websites.

Homophobia: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle homophobic crime. [284110]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The 'Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public; An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11' committed us to producing a dedicated cross-Government action plan to assist local partners in developing their responses to hate crime. This strategic action plan involves a number of actions that will aim to increase victim and community confidence in the criminal justice system, help prevent hate crimes from occurring or escalating in seriousness; and improve access to and take up of victim support. The action plan will be published over the summer.

The Government have also introduced an offence of inciting hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. We expect the provisions on incitement to hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation to come into force in the autumn.

Offensive Weapons

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of offences related to possession of a knife in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [281895]

Alan Johnson: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area for 1998 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007, broken down by police force area[1,2]

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	69	113	87	105	144	152	146	128	168	163
Bedfordshire	36	23	40	32	40	57	68	78	61	62
Cambridgeshire	35	31	15	27	46	34	62	57	67	54
Cheshire	63	52	51	36	54	54	48	82	84	108
City of London	8	4	8	9	17	19	20	18	11	9
Cleveland	31	31	21	42	69	70	81	71	76	90
Cumbria	27	37	27	28	37	45	46	50	41	46
Derbyshire	31	36	40	53	68	82	100	79	77	99
Devon and Cornwall	78	75	70	71	110	129	126	143	120	138
Dorset	41	32	32	32	55	49	59	61	67	63
Durham	30	35	43	35	76	64	68	89	91	92
Essex	97	96	100	99	103	146	201	176	175	160
Gloucestershire	34	18	17	24	26	32	42	39	39	41
Greater Manchester	242	207	222	281	298	304	344	349	393	394
Hampshire	111	93	106	114	113	153	177	162	161	169
Hertfordshire	29	28	27	25	53	83	84	92	84	68
Humberside	45	65	55	46	69	65	106	115	125	147
Kent	73	84	77	76	33	35	13	12	6	5
Lancashire	120	97	87	106	98	136	161	150	144	151
Leicestershire	69	62	54	65	76	91	98	92	113	118
Lincolnshire	40	54	46	41	50	71	65	53	69	47
Merseyside	169	131	124	121	160	165	199	198	218	215
Metropolitan Police	1,327	1,083	1,164	1,507	1,871	1,687	1,615	1,698	1,691	1,459
Norfolk	50	46	36	41	59	69	70	69	62	78
North Yorkshire	34	45	33	45	52	50	69	66	57	52
Northamptonshire	11	14	8	3	2	2	3	6	1	4
Northumbria	101	114	121	153	171	183	211	216	217	259
Nottinghamshire	41	45	47	56	68	85	115	117	144	152
South Yorkshire	58	63	66	114	146	147	117	169	150	138
Staffordshire[3]	39	42	—	34	68	63	71	60	92	86
Suffolk	22	26	30	31	61	52	68	69	106	89
Surrey	13	12	25	32	27	37	40	35	37	42
Sussex	66	92	84	100	127	123	114	121	138	140
Thames Valley	79	75	54	77	85	76	117	145	178	139
Warwickshire	30	24	19	18	26	18	27	23	30	32
West Mercia	38	28	33	45	41	62	82	99	100	100
West Midlands	151	137	204	318	343	327	357	319	383	392
West Yorkshire	38	56	57	87	103	108	172	168	172	190
Wiltshire	35	32	28	36	37	40	50	53	70	48
Dyfed-Powys	23	29	27	31	35	36	39	45	29	35
Gwent	18	20	21	20	33	23	48	36	56	66

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007, broken down by police force area[1,2]

Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North Wales	55	60	42	51	74	61	67	77	113	89
South Wales	98	101	83	94	114	111	124	120	153	140
Total	3,805	3,548	3,531	4,361	5,338	5,396	5,890	6,005	6,369	6,169

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Police: Pensions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will estimate the average first year retirement pension payment of a police officer retiring after 30 years service in each of the principal ranks of the police service in 2009; [282796]

(2) how many retired police officers are aged *(a)* less than 50, *(b)* between 50 and 55, *(c)* between 56 and 60, *(d)* between 61 and 65 and *(e)* over 65 years old; [282881]

(3) what the average value of pension payments to retired police officers aged *(a)* under 50, *(b)* from 51 to 55, *(c)* from 56 to 60, *(d)* from 61 to 65 and *(e)* more than 65 years old was in the latest period for which figures are available; [282874]

(4) what the cost of payments made to police pensioners *(a)* under 50, *(b)* between 51 and 55, *(c)* between 56 and 60, *(d)* between 61 and 65 and *(e)* aged 65 and more was in the latest year for which figures are available. [282876]

Alan Johnson: Information on the average first-year police pension is not held centrally and data on the accrued pension rights of retiring officers by rank are not currently included in the valuation data held on the police pension schemes by the Government Actuary's Department. Therefore it is possible to give only a broad estimate of the average annual pension payment based on the salary scale for each main rank. The following information is based on the pay scales currently in place (since 1 September 2008, effective until 31 August 2009).

	Rank assumed average final salary	£ *Estimated average pension*
Constable	34,707	17,354
Sergeant	37,098	18,549
Inspector	46,977	23,489
Chief Inspector	50,211	25,106
Superintendent	64,095	32,048
Chief Superintendent	72,717	36,359
Assistant Chief Constable/Commander	94,851	47,426

For the rank of constable, it is assumed that a retiring officer is at the top of the pay range. For other ranks, the middle of the pay range is used. It is also assumed that the retiring officer will elect to commute the maximum amount of pension allowable in order to receive a lump sum payment on retirement, as the majority of retiring officers do elect to receive a lump sum. This would mean the officer's first-year pension payment would be 50 per cent. of his or her final salary. Given that the factors for calculating the commutation of a lump sum payment are based on the age of each officer, it is not possible to estimate an average amount for a lump sum payment.

The salary level of an officer of rank deputy chief constable (deputy assistant commissioner in the Metropolitan police) and above depends on the police force in which the officer serves. In the light of this, and the relatively small number of senior officers, estimating an average pension payment for these ranks would not provide an accurate reflection of the situation on retirement of an officer and could be misleading.

From the valuation data on the police pension scheme held by the Government Actuary's Department, as at 31 March 2008 the total number of retired police officer pensioners, split by age, is broadly as follows (figures are rounded to the nearest 100)

Group	*Number*
Less than age 50	9,300
Between age 50 and 55	19,800
Between age 56 and 60	19,000
Between age 61 and 65	18,300
Over age 66	34,800

Information on the cost and value of police pensions broken down into different age groups is not held centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Safety: Dissident Terrorists

9. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of threat to public safety in Northern Ireland from the activities of dissident terrorists. [283762]

13. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of threat to public safety in Northern Ireland from the activities of dissident terrorists. [283767]

Mr. Woodward: While no one should underestimate the capacity of these individuals to cause serious harm, it is even more the case today than a year ago that the people of Northern Ireland will not allow them to succeed.

Decommissioning: Loyalist Paramilitaries

10. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent reports he has received on decommissioning of weapons by Loyalist paramilitaries; and if he will make a statement. [283763]

Mr. Woodward: The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning has recently confirmed to me that it has witnessed a major decommissioning event by the Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand Commando, and that they have been advised that this includes all the arms under their control. I am pleased with this significant act of leadership by those who have been persuaded that democracy is the only way forward.

The IICD has also confirmed that it has witnessed a decommissioning event by the Ulster Defence Association, which represents a significant move. I encourage them to continue their engagement with the IICD and complete decommissioning as soon as possible.

Serving Police Officers

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many serving police officers there were in Northern Ireland on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [283764]

Paul Goggins: On the 1 July 2009 there were 7,274 regular officers including 163 student officers. There are also 472 full-time reserve officers and 739 part-time reserve officers in Northern Ireland. The current composition is based on Patten's recommendation of a force strength of 7,500 regular officers.

Romanian Nationals: Attacks

12. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reports he has received on the recent incidents of attacks on Romanian nationals in Northern Ireland. [283765]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) and the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge).

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department of employing press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283084]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the cost to the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland and excluding its agencies and NDPBs, of employing press office staff other than press officers in each year since 1999 to 2000.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
1999-2000	413,753.13
2000-01	446,494.02
2001-02	452,404.98
2002-03	473,532.04
2003-04	502,576.39
2004-05	508,937.23
2005-06	567,582.21
2006-07	550,152.19
2007-08	510,555.08
2008-09	491,404.49

Financial records are not available for the years before 1999 to 2000.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the peace process on levels of public expenditure in Northern Ireland. [283919]

Paul Goggins: Devolution in Northern Ireland is delivering widespread benefits to all the people of Northern Ireland and is underpinned by strong public services. The Government's public spending plans in Northern Ireland are set out in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009 (Cm 7630).

Smuggling: Fuels

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the level of fuel smuggling in Northern Ireland. [283766]

Paul Goggins: Latest HMRC figures indicate that the amount of fuel used, but not sourced in Northern Ireland, is reducing. However, we are not complacent and in the past year we have seized over 800,000 litres of illegal fuel.

TRANSPORT

A1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons a 40mph speed limit has been imposed on the A1(M) motorway in the vicinity of junction 4 where roadworks are taking place; and if he will make a statement. [284876]

Chris Mole: A 40 mph speed limit has been introduced on the A1(M) in the vicinity of junction 4 to allow for major refurbishment on the Hatfield Tunnel to be undertaken.

The works started in June and will continue until April 2011.

The 40 mph temporary speed limit is in place for driver and work force safety in accordance with the requirements of Traffic Signs Manual chapter 8 road works and temporary situations.

Aviation: Caribbean

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* flights and *(b)* passengers travelled from the UK to destinations in the Caribbean in each of the last five years. [283827]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of flights and passengers who departed from UK airports to destinations in the Caribbean in each of the last five years.

Flights and passengers from UK airports to destinations in the Caribbean, 2004-08

		Thousand
	Flights	*Passengers*
2004	3.9	947
2005	3.9	914
2006	4.1	951
2007	4.0	974
2008	3.8	974

Source:
Department for Transport analysis of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) data.

Total passenger flows between UK airports and individual countries are published on the CAA website in table 12.1 at the following link:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagetype=88&pageid=3&sglid=3

Driving Under Influence: Death

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of road deaths involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol level in excess of the legal limit in each year since 1980. [284004]

Paul Clark: The estimated numbers and the percentages of all road deaths in accidents involving at least one driver over the legal alcohol limit in each year since 1980 to 2007 are given in the table. Provisional 2008 data will be available on 6 August 2009.

A drink drive accident is defined as being an incident on a public road in which someone is killed or injured and where one or more of the motor vehicle drivers or riders involved either refused to give a breath test specimen when requested to do so by the police (other than when incapable of doing so for medical reasons), or one of the following:

(i) failed a roadside breath test by registering over 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath

(ii) died and was subsequently found to have more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

However, not all drink drive accidents are detected in this way, as there are some drivers involved for whom neither of the above test results are available, even though they were over the legal limit. The Department for Transport's statistics therefore are adjusted to allow for this in order to produce a better estimate of the number of drink drive accidents and casualties. See in article 3 of "Road Casualties Great Britain—annual report 2007" published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071

Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Estimated number of fatalities involving at least one driver over the legal alcohol limit: 1980 to 2007

	Fatalities involving at least one driver over legal alcohol limit	*All fatalities in reported personal injury accidents*	*Percentage of fatalities involving at least one driver over legal alcohol limit of all fatalities*
1980	1,450	6,010	24
1981	1,420	5,846	24
1982	1,550	5,937	26
1983	1,110	5,445	20
1984	1,170	5,599	21
1985	1,040	5,165	20
1986	990	5,385	18
1987	930	5,125	18
1988	790	5,052	16
1989	810	5,373	15
1990	780	5,217	15
1991	660	4,568	14
1992	660	4,229	16
1993	540	3,814	14
1994	540	3,650	15
1995	540	3,621	15
1996	580	3,598	16
1997	550	3,599	15
1998	460	3,421	13
1999	460	3,423	13
2000	530	3,409	16
2001	530	3,450	15
2002	550	3,431	16
2003	580	3,508	17
2004	580	3,221	18
2005	550	3,201	17
2006	560	3,172	18
2007[1]	460	2,946	16

[1] Provisional data. The 2007 estimates are based on a reduced sample of coroners' returns and may be biased. They remain provisional until more complete information for 2007 is available.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Manpower

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* surveyors, *(b)* Coastguard Control Centre staff, *(c)* administrative staff and *(d)* human resources staff the Maritime and Coastguard Agency employed in each of the last 10 years. [282930]

Paul Clark: The number of staff employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), broken down into the categories asked, since 2002 is shown in the following table. The MCA's systems only hold records back to 2002:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Surveyors	173	177	188	194	190	192	181
Coastguard Control Centre	537	515	531	545	534	460	439
Administrative	386	411	423	473	467	536	483
Human Resources	47	55	50	57	58	58	54

Administrative staff includes, for example, senior managers and policy leads as well as administrators.

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Maritime and Coastguard Agency office in each of the last five years. [285538]

Paul Clark: The number of directors at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has been three from August 2008. Prior to that, in each of the last five years, the number of directors was five.

The information for *(b)* to *(d)* is not available in the format requested.

Motorcycles: Testing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the safety for riders of the swerve manoeuvre in the motorcycle test; and if he will make a statement. [284608]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency is keeping the hazard avoidance manoeuvre under review as part of its monitoring process.

As of mid June 2009, there had been over 9,000 off-road Module 1 tests conducted, and 33 incidents, including non-injury incidents—an incident rate of 0.4 per cent.

Railway Network

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of track have been added to the rail network in the last five years; and how much has been spent on improving and upgrading the rail network in that period. [284751]

Chris Mole: 24 miles of new two track high speed railway were built by London and Continental Railways for section 2 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link completed in 2007. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link was constructed as a public private partnership project with a 90-year concession and is not the direct responsibility of Network Rail.

Otherwise, the amount of railway built each year is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher

Chief Executive

Network Rail

Kings Place

90 York Way

London N1 9AG

Spending on rail infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of Network Rail. Historical spending by the company is contained in the company's annual reports and accounts, which can be found on the Network Rail website at

www.networkrail.co.uk

Government spending on the railway in the past five years is set out in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation at

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Railways

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail journeys were made by passengers in each of the last five years. [284745]

Chris Mole: Rail passenger journeys in the past five years are shown in the following table:

Passenger journeys, Great Britain, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Passenger journeys (million)
2003-04	1,012
2004-05	1,045
2005-06	1,082
2006-07	1,151
2007-08	1,232

Source:
The Office of Rail Regulation

Railways: Fares

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to issue the fares direction to train operating companies on the use of Oyster cards for national rail services in London. [283073]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1078-79W.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the inclusion in rail franchise contracts of revenue support clauses was last reviewed; and when he next plans to review the inclusion of such clauses in those contracts. [284688]

Chris Mole: The revenue share and revenue support clauses are part of the template franchise agreement and National Rail Franchise Terms that the Department for Transport has used as the basis of all recent franchise competitions. The National Rail Franchise Terms were reviewed in preparation for the last franchise competition, South Central, although no substantive changes were made to these clauses at that time. We will assess such clauses again in the course of our preparations for future franchise competitions.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse likely to result from the closure of the Oldham Loop Line in Greater Manchester in October 2009. [283353]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 1 July 2009]*: The Department for Transport is currently calculating changes to the subsidy payments to Northern Rail in line with the Franchise Agreement. Any savings arising were taken into account in the development of the Metrolink business case.

The Department will be contributing £244.3 million towards the expansion of Metrolink to Oldham, Rochdale and Chorlton.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to relieve congestion on rail routes in Greater Manchester. [283354]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* The Government are currently in discussions with relevant train operators on measures to increase peak-hour train capacity for commuters into Manchester by 2014. It is also working with Network Rail in its "Manchester Hub" study, to identify options for increasing rail capacity from 2014 onwards.

Rolling Stock: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department will provide funding for the retention of rolling stock following the closure of the Oldham Loop Line in Greater Manchester in October 2009. [283352]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 1 July 2009]:* The Department for Transport is not planning to provide additional funding for the redeployment of the rolling stock displaced through the conversion of the Oldham Loop from heavy rail to Manchester Metrolink light rail. However, the rolling stock may be redeployed either commercially, through support from the passenger transport executive or through the High Level Output Specification Programme.

Shipping

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vessels were *(a)* surveyed and *(b)* certified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each of the last 10 years. [282931]

Paul Clark: The number of vessels surveyed and certified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each of the last 10 financial years is shown in the following table:

	Number of vessels surveyed and certificated
2008	2,452
2007	2,385
2006	2,479
2005	2,452
2004	2,449
2003	2,306
2002	2,279
2001	2,178
2000	2,106
1999	1,979

All surveys resulted in the issue of some form of certification.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in compensation to owners of *(a)* fishing vessels and *(b)* other commercial vessels by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in respect of errors of judgment during certification surveys in each of the last five years. [282932]

Paul Clark: An ex-gratia payment of £550,000 was made in 2004 in relation to a fishing vessel. No other payments have been made since 2004.

Shipping: Safety

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the removal of distress flares and other pyrotechnic devices from vessels registered under the UK flag. [282929]

Paul Clark: No discussions have taken place recently between officials in the Department for Transport and its executive agencies about the removal of distress flares and other pyrotechnic devices from vessels registered under the UK flag.

Requirements to carry flares on UK ships are regulated by The Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances For Ships Other Than Ships Of Classes III To VI(A)) Regulations 1999, which enact the UK's international obligations under SOLAS Chapter III.

Marine Guidance Note 287 advises UK ship operators on the disposal of out of date pyrotechnics.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his statement on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 382-84, on coal carbon capture and storage, what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's carbon capture and storage (CCS) competition of the additional CCS demonstration projects. [283179]

Mr. Kidney: The proposals announced on 23 April 2009 are intended to complement the current CCS demonstration competition and therefore the competition will proceed as set out in the Budget statement.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278726]

Joan Ruddock: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

DECC can confirm that no officials have been disciplined or dismissed for breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months.

If staff are found to have been responsible for a serious breach of data security procedures, dependent upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

DECC operate within the following Cabinet Office frameworks in respect of data security:

> Mandatory requirement 12 of the HMG Security Policy Framework, published in December 2008 states that Departments and Agencies must provide all staff with guidance on the Data Protection Act and other legislation which affects their role. Reference:
>
> www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf/mandatory_requirements/mrl2.aspx
>
> Mandatory requirements 31 to 49 of the HMG Security Policy Framework published in December 2008 includes measures that Departments must put in place in relation to information security and assurance. Reference:
>
> www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf/sp4_isa.aspx

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many public consultations his Department has conducted since its creation; what the title of each was; how many responses were received to each; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each. [283922]

Joan Ruddock: In line with the code of practice on consultation, the Department of Energy and Climate Change publishes all its consultation documents on its website at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/consultations.aspx

The number of responses received for individual consultations is recorded in the Government response documents. These are published on the departmental website alongside the consultations themselves.

The total cost incurred for each consultation: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Meters

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he expects the programme to install smart meters in households to begin; [283598]

(2) whether his Department plans to bring forward legislation to limit the percentage of the cost of smart meters that can be passed on to consumers; and if he will make a statement. [283614]

Mr. Kidney: Last year the Government announced their intention to mandate smart metering for all households, with an indicative timetable for completion of the roll-out by the end of 2020.

We are currently consulting on our approach to key aspects of the roll-out of smart meters. Our final decisions will be followed by the detailed work required to prepare for the roll-out. As part of this work, a wide range of policy, technical and operational issues will need to be addressed. These will include the start-date for roll-out and determination of appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether customers who subscribe to a pre-payment tariff for smart metering will be charged more than those who do not; and if he will make a statement. [283616]

Mr. Kidney: A substantial programme of work must be completed before the roll-out of smart meters begins. As part of this, a wide range of policy and operational issues needs to be addressed to maximise the benefits that all consumers can obtain from smart metering.

There is currently a price differential between prepayment and standard credit meters because of the additional costs of prepayment meters and the infrastructure required to support them. It is anticipated that these costs will be reduced by smart metering.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what provision exists for customers who already have a smart meter to change their energy provider prior to the national roll-out of smart meters; and if he will make a statement; [283690]

(2) whether any mechanism exists for energy companies to provide smart meters to customers who request one prior to their becoming available nationally; and if he will make a statement. [283691]

Mr. Kidney: The provision of smart meters ahead of a Government-mandated roll-out is a matter for energy suppliers and their customers. Suppliers are obliged to measure gas and electricity through an approved meter, but there is no obligation to provide a "smart" meter.

Customers with existing "smart" meters will continue to be able to switch energy provider, however the metering services provided by the new supplier may be different.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that energy tariffs are the same before account is taken of administration costs for customers who pre-pay and those who pay quarterly bills. [283095]

Mr. Kidney: The Government believe that differences in charges relating to the method of payment should reflect the costs of servicing that method, and should not discriminate unfairly against any group of customers. Therefore, we strongly support the regulator Ofgem's work putting in place rules to ensure that prices paid by consumers are cost reflective.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Ofgem to publish its final report on its Energy Supply Probe. [283280]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem's initial probe report identified a number of areas where action was required and proposed a range of remedies.

Ofgem published its decision document on new licence conditions to prohibit undue discrimination and ensure payment methods are cost reflective on 26 June. Subject to responses, the new licence conditions should be introduced in August.

Ofgem aims to proceed to Statutory Consultation on the final package of its Energy Supply Probe remedies, including better consumer information and improved protection for small businesses, towards the end of this month and to have the new measures in licences ahead of the coming winter.

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in ensuring that those with pre-payment meters for energy supplies are not overcharged. [283349]

Mr. Kidney: The Government believe that differences in charges relating to the method of payment should reflect no more than the costs of servicing that method, and should not discriminate unfairly against any group of customers. Therefore, we strongly support the regulator Ofgem's work putting in place rules to give effect to this approach.

Following a consultation on their proposals Ofgem published its decision to implement a licence condition change requiring cost reflective payment methods on 26 June. Ofgem intend that this change will be in place by August 2009. This decision can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Addressing%20Undue%20Discrimination.pdf

Fossil Fuelled Power Stations: Planning Permission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of including an emissions performance standard in the criteria for securing planning permission for new fossil fuel power plants. [281898]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are considering the merits of emissions performance standards as part of its current consultation into the development of clean coal. A statement of the Government's position on emissions performance standards will be given in its response to the consultation.

Sizewell A Power Station

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on *(a)* the causes of the coolant leak at Sizewell A discovered on 7 June 2007 and *(b)* when it is understood the leak occurred. [280799]

Mr. Kidney: The Department is not aware of a coolant leak which occurred at Sizewell A on 7 June 2007. It is assumed the question refers to the Sizewell A pond leakage event which was identified on 7 January 2007.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) lead on the investigation in this case and they have informed my Department that the cause of the leak was a vertical longitudinal split in a section of 8 inch diameter plastic pipe in the cooling pond recirculation system. The alarm was raised at 11:30 hours on Sunday 7 January 2007. HSE's initial assessment is that due to the nature of the split in the pipe the breach is most likely to have happened suddenly and only a short time (no more than a few hours) before the alarm was raised.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government has received any requests for additional resources from *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(b)* the Environment Agency as a result of the discovery of a coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 June 2007. [280808]

Joan Ruddock: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the coolant leak at Sizewell A on 7 January 2007 as I am not aware of a coolant leak at the site on 7 June 2007.

Neither the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate nor the Environment Agency made a request to Government for additional resource as a result of the Sizewell A coolant leak event of 7 January 2007.

Solar Power: Housing

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much grant funding his Department provided for the installation of solar photovoltaic technology in domestic dwellings in each of the last five years; and what budget is available for these purposes in 2009-10. [283210]

Mr. Kidney: Since 2001 the Government have committed over £41 million to the development of solar PV in the UK through grant programmes and field trials. Currently solar PV has benefited significantly under the Low Carbon Buildings (LCBP) programme with an original budget of £86 million. The Government have committed a further £45 million to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in the recent Budget. This now brings support for the programme to over £130 million.

Low carbon buildings programme phase 1

Householder stream

Year application received	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of grants commited	365	325	669	481
Value of grants commited (£)	2,748,292.47	1,415,543.89	1,597,069.11	1,154,418.80

Householder stream

Year grant paid	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of grants paid	87	506	504	436
Value of grants offered (£)	613,675.52	3,224,486.78	1,226,030.39	1,048,257.10

LCBP communities, 2A and 2B streams relating to residential developments

	Combined total across other streams			
Year application received	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of grants committed	2	12	—	—
Value of PV grant committed/paid amount (£)	83,246.00	1,009,483.89	—	—

	Combined total across other streams			
Year paid	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of grants paid	—	—	3	2
Value of PV grants paid (£)	—	—	68,919.00	89,829.85

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to the development of agricultural businesses in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* Buckinghamshire in each of the last five years. [283681]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data on total spend are not available at constituency or county level. The table gives, by financial year, funding allocated to the development of agricultural businesses in the South East region. These figures include payments made under rural development programmes, which includes agri-environment payments, and payments made directly to agricultural businesses by the South East of England Development Agency.

	Total (£)
2004-05	4,966,000
2005-06	6,166,000
2006-07	5,437,000
2007-08	4,972,000
2008-09	5,793,000
Grand total	[1]27,334,000

[1] Source: DEFRA, Natural England, South East England Development Agency. Figures rounded up or down to the nearest thousand.

Agriculture: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to the development of agricultural business in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [284318]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives, by financial year, funding allocated to the development of agricultural businesses in the East of England region from 2004-05 onwards[1]. Total figures are not available at county or constituency level. These figures include payments made under Rural Development Programmes, including agri-environment payments, and payments made directly to agricultural businesses by the East of England Development Agency.

[1] Figures obtained from DEFRA, East of England Development Agency and Natural England.

	Total (£)
2004-05	29,093,000
2005-06	33,101,000
2006-07	42,613,000
2007-08	51,088,000
2008-09	56,428,000
Grand total	212,323,000

Animals: Abuse

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals were prosecuted for neglect of animals resulting from leaving animals in confined and hot spaces for a prolonged period in each of the last two years; and what average fine was issued for those convicted in such cases. [285070]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to separately identify the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 at all courts in England and Wales for neglect of animals left in confined and hot spaces for a prolonged period[1].

[1] From data held by the Ministry of Justice.

Animals: Quarantine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animal quarantine centres are in operation in the UK. [284035]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In England, Scotland and Wales there are currently 29 authorised quarantine premises for domestic (i.e. pet) animals. Quarantine premises in Northern Ireland are licensed by DARDNI (the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland).

Zoos and research establishments have not been included as the number of these establishments (which do not offer rabies quarantine for pets belonging to members of the public) that are approved can change frequently and are authorised only when required.

Avian Influenza: Poultry

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of links between stocking densities of broiler chickens and the incidence of avian influenza. [283923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The management of animal disease risks forms part of sustainable livestock production. There is a variety of different livestock production systems and each present different animal disease challenges. More intensive systems in which the animals are housed provide greater opportunities for preventing disease entering a herd or flock but higher stocking densities mean that disease, once it gains entry to a farm, may spread more rapidly. Good husbandry and management will help reduce the risk of entry but this risk cannot be eliminated. Sometimes disease will occur. This can happen in both intensive and extensive systems.

The risk of influenza has not been shown to be greater in either, although experience has shown that close contact between animals and man is an important factor in possible transmission to man.

Further, there is no evidence of a correlation between intensive farming and the frequency of influenza pandemics. Indeed, the frequency of influenza pandemics has not changed despite the intensification of livestock production in developed countries since the 1950s.

Avian Influenza: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether birds other than those in zoos may be vaccinated in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza; and if he will make a statement. [284097]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We would not vaccinate poultry in advance of an avian influenza outbreak, nor would we use the vaccine as an immediate disease control response, due to the limitations of the vaccines. Early reporting, rapid action, biosecurity, culling and surveillance remain the most effective ways of protecting against and controlling an avian influenza outbreak.

We keep our policy on vaccination under review in the light of scientific developments in vaccines. Vaccination also forms part of our contingency planning in view of potential uncertainties in the nature and spread of the virus. However, preventive vaccination of poultry is not the most effective defence against avian influenza, because currently available vaccines have a number of disadvantages.

With some limited exceptions, it is against the law to import, possess or administer avian influenza vaccine without authorisation from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Bees

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on funding for research into the problems affecting the honey bee. [283650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has received approximately 13 parliamentary questions, 34 letters from MPs and 123 other pieces of correspondence in the last three months on the subject of honey bee health, including funding for research. There was an MP debate about bee health organised by Dr. Ian Gibson, former Labour MP for Norwich North, on 29 April, and a House of Lords Debate about the effect of disease on the British bee population, moved by Lord Moynihan on 21 May.

DEFRA has recently provided increased funding to bee health. £2.5 million is being made available over the next five years to the insect pollinator initiative on pollinator decline. In addition, £2.3 million will be provided to the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit over the next two years to implement the first stage of the healthy bees plan.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of the UK's *(a)* greenhouse gas, *(b)* methane and *(c)* nitrous oxide emission which derive from (i) agriculture and (ii) forestry. [284872]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 July 2009]*: According to the UK greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventory: 1990-2006 report, GHG emissions from agriculture in 2006 were 44.71 Mt CO_2e which was 7 per cent. of total UK emissions. Emissions for which agriculture was responsible are as follows:

18.7 Mt CO_2e of methane (CH_4) emissions which was 38.0 per cent. of the UK's CH_4 emissions, mainly from the digestive systems of livestock and from manure and;

25.7 Mt CO_2e of nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions which was 67.4 per cent. of the total UK N_2O emissions, mainly from the use of nitrogen fertiliser.

Forestry is recorded in the UK GHG inventory as part of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector which contains both sources and sinks of GHGs. In 2006, the UK GHG inventory reported the following sources and sinks for the forestry sector:

A net removal of 14.7 Mt CO_2, resulting from the growth of existing forests, and results of afforestation, but also accounting for emissions associated with deforestation (a removal, but in magnitude equivalent to 3 per cent. of UK CO_2 emissions);

A source of 0.0029 Mt CO_2e CH_4 from wildfires and biomass burning (less than 0.1 per cent. of UK CH_4 emissions);

A source of 0.0043 Mt CO_2e N_2O emissions from forest wildfires, biomass burning and nitrogen fertilisation of forest land (less than 0.01 per cent. of UK N_2O emissions).

Dairy Farmers of Britain: Insolvency

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the failure of Dairy Farmers of Britain, with particular reference to *(a)* the role of the banks, *(b)* when the receivers were brought in and *(c)* the expected financial effect on dairy farming. [283619]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Dairy Farmers of Britain (DFoB) is registered by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965. The FSA, in its capacity as registering authority, is working closely with the Receivers, who will be examining the reasons for the failure of DFoB and publishing their findings in a report to all creditors.

The Industrial and Provident Societies Act provides the FSA with only limited powers of investigation, and these are linked to its obligation to be satisfied that a society qualifies for registration under the Act.

The Receivers—PricewaterhouseCoopers were called in on 3 June. They have estimated the total financial costs to DFoB members to be around £83 million.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280542]

Dan Norris: DEFRA became responsible for implementing energy efficiency measures throughout the DEFRA in 2006. Since that date expenditure on energy efficiency measures is as shown in the table (DEFRA Estates does not hold information for the period 2004-06).

Investment in energy efficiency

	£
2006-07	244,272
2007-08	1,187,697
2008-09	2,369,134

These data do not include expenditure on energy efficiency measures in new builds and refurbishments as sustainable technologies and energy efficiency measures are inherent in the overall programme and costs.

The measures implemented by DEFRA Estates resulted in achievement of the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS) in 2007 and the Carbon Trust Standard in 2008, both of which are independently assessed and confirm increased energy efficiency and a reduction in carbon emissions.

DEFRA has already met the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) Target for reducing carbon emissions from offices and the continued programme of spend on efficiency measures will ensure that the Department is in the best possible position when Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) begins in 2012. In addition, a Sustainable Built Environment Workplace Support (SBEWS) delivery partnership with Interserve plc which spans a 15-year period will deliver significant efficiencies, not just in energy but across the entire range of SOGE targets.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283070]

Dan Norris: The requested information cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Dogs: Tagging

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake research into the effect of dog microchipping schemes on *(a)* levels of crime and *(b)* perceptions of crime. [284100]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to assess the effect of dog microchipping schemes on levels of *(a)* crime and *(b)* perception of crime.

Domestic Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1279-82W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what records the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds on the frequency of the collection of household residual waste in each of the new unitary councils. [284082]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) records on the frequency of collection arrangements have not been updated since the local government reorganisation in April 2009. However, WRAP'S understanding is that these arrangements are still continuing exactly as they did before the local government reorganisation took place.

Farmers: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* dairy, *(b)* arable, *(c)* beef and *(d)* sheep farmers there are in each English county. [283583]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of farmers on dairy, arable, beef and sheep holdings in June 2008 (the latest data available) are shown in the following table. The type of farm is determined by the predominant agricultural activity taking place on the holding, using data from the annual June Survey of Agriculture. Beef and sheep farms are not categorised separately.

The number of farmers on mixed holdings are also shown as these are holdings with both livestock and crops but where neither activity dominates.

Number of farmers by predominant farm type

	(a) Dairy farmers	*(b) Arable farmers*		*(c) and (d) Beef and sheep farmers*		*(e) Mixed farmers*
	Dairy	*Cereals*	*General cropping*	*Grazing livestock (LFA)*	*Grazing livestock (lowland)*	*Mixed*
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	17	147	[1]—	0	58	22
South Teesside	29	75	[1]—	29	28	44
Darlington	18	129	24	0	53	46
Durham CC	133	534	37	1,078	458	234
Northumberland	89	711	75	1,333	430	367
Tyneside	[1]—	85	[1]—	18	43	36
Sunderland	0	35	0	0	10	[1]—
West Cumbria	771	118	32	760	768	215
East Cumbria	1,402	175	40	2,608	1,093	348
Halton and Warrington	24	89	35	0	35	25
Cheshire CC	1,337	392	252	263	1,405	288
Greater Manchester South	35	30	21	106	74	18
Greater Manchester North	127	115	24	335	149	54
Blackburn with Darwen	24	0	[1]—	113	19	11
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	—	0
Lancashire CC	1,388	184	494	1,548	1,149	314
East Merseyside	0	103	45	0	27	11
Liverpool	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0
Sefton	0	19	32	0	25	[1]—
Wirral	22	15	10	0	33	11
Kingston upon Hull, City of	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0

Number of farmers by predominant farm type

	(a) Dairy farmers	*(b) Arable farmers*		*(c) and (d) Beef and sheep farmers*		*(e) Mixed farmers*
	Dairy	*Cereals*	*General cropping*	*Grazing livestock (LFA)*	*Grazing livestock (lowland)*	*Mixed*
East Riding of Yorkshire	70	1,329	671	0	431	331
North and North East Lincolnshire	10	413	195	0	144	70
York	20	149	76	0	84	40
North Yorkshire CC	1,364	2,320	845	2,816	1,898	1,208
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	115	605	98	102	239	131
Sheffield	42	21	[1]—	157	36	18
Bradford	83	[1]—	0	435	78	38
Leeds	34	133	57	56	131	45
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	173	221	55	932	167	163
Derby	0	[1]—	0	0	12	[1]—
East Derbyshire	104	205	45	126	194	123
South and West Derbyshire	791	318	81	1,257	654	260
Nottingham	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0
North Nottinghamshire	60	607	230	0	287	162
South Nottinghamshire	34	278	61	0	164	82
Leicester	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	340	1,080	96	0	1,110	333
Northamptonshire	59	1,107	65	0	862	247
Lincolnshire	100	2,688	1,513	0	776	422
Herefordshire, County of	218	544	492	511	1,431	642
Worcestershire	181	574	308	0	1,290	338
Warwickshire	139	925	127	0	1,005	337
Telford and Wrekin	42	73	69	0	101	32
Shropshire CC	997	837	347	915	1,763	785
Stoke-on-Trent	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	43	[1]—
Staffordshire CC	1,343	545	258	1,064	1,269	356
Birmingham	[1]—	23	[1]—	0	6	0
Solihull	11	54	[1]—	0	74	28
Coventry	[1]—	12	[1]—	0	27	11
Dudley and Sandwell	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	14	7
Walsall and Wolverhampton	[1]—	[1]—	18	0	16	[1]—
Peterborough	[1]—	131	72	0	20	[1]—
Cambridgeshire CC	14	1,502	849	0	311	118
Norfolk	95	1,404	1,838	0	862	507
Suffolk	85	1,827	737	0	660	356
Luton	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Bedfordshire CC	25	729	93	0	225	79
Hertfordshire	29	646	20	0	278	67
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Thurrock	0	24	[1]—	0	35	[1]—
Essex CC	31	1,797	289	0	508	257
Inner London—west	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0
Inner London—east	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Outer London—east and north-east	0	30	17	0	19	[1]—
Outer London—south	0	20	5	0	20	8
Outer London—west and north-west	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	20	14
Berkshire	26	242	28	0	263	73
Milton Keynes	13	112	—	0	63	12
Buckinghamshire CC	114	462	34	0	697	249
Oxfordshire	102	951	84	0	700	278
Brighton and Hove	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	8	[1]—
East Sussex CC	114	342	81	0	1,263	274
Surrey	73	129	24	0	644	82
West Sussex	111	419	107	0	720	197
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	[1]—	0
Southampton	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Hampshire CC	190	793	112	0	1,260	313
Isle of Wight	57	88	21	0	267	49
Medway	0	18	20	0	28	[1]—
Kent CC	102	895	334	0	1,500	389
Bristol, City of	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	24	0
N and NE Somerset, S Glos	403	279	35	0	972	231
Gloucestershire	432	748	88	0	1,699	413
Swindon	24	65	[1]—	0	50	15
Wiltshire CC	506	871	73	0	1,244	293
Bournemouth and Poole	[1]—	0	0	0	10	[1]—
Dorset CC	789	447	53	0	1,539	290
Somerset	1,338	685	167	507	2,706	592
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1,251	609	396	954	2,377	925
Plymouth	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	20	0
Torbay	[1]—	0	0	0	27	19
Devon CC	2,419	1,081	334	2,172	4,594	1,491
England	20,122	35,402	12,843	20,194	45,827	15,915

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Notes:

1. Farmers includes full- and part-time farmers, partners, directors and spouses if working on the holding.
2. The grazing livestock farm type categories also include a small number of holdings with farmed deer and goats.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Grants: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many residents of Tamworth constituency have received funding from the *(a)* Rural Enterprise, *(b)* Processing and Marketing Grants and *(c)* Vocational Training scheme in each year since the inception of each such scheme; and for what period such funding was allocated from each such scheme. [283845]

Dan Norris: The Rural Enterprise Scheme, the Processing and Marketing Grant and Vocational Training Scheme formed part of the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) which closed on 31 December 2006. The Programme covered the period 2000 to 2006. The following table provides the number of projects approved under these schemes in the West Midlands region during the life of the ERDP. Figures are not available at a constituency level. Figures for the actual number of trainees assisted under the Vocational Training Scheme are available only on a national (England) basis.

	Calender year—January to December							
Scheme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Processing marketing grant (PMG)	0	2	4	6	9	4	8	33
Rural enterprise scheme (RES)	0	23	51	58	100	100	80	412
Vocational training scheme (VTS)	0	5	5	5	19	13	11	58
Total	0	30	60	69	128	117	99	503

Source:
DEFRA.

Grocery Trade: Competition

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Competition Commission on its proposed grocery supply code of practice. [284687]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not discussed the proposed Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) with the Competition Commission.

In its inquiry into the groceries market the Commission found that one of the features that adversely affected competition in the market was the exercise of buyer power by certain grocery retailers with respect to their suppliers of groceries, through the adoption of supply chain practices that transfer excessive risks and unexpected costs to those suppliers. The GSCOP is being introduced by the Competition Commission, which is an independent public body, in response to this finding.

Incinerators

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which individuals and organisations were invited to make submissions to the Environment Agency's H14 ecotoxicity consultation in 2007. [284472]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency's consultation on H14 ecotoxicity was a public consultation to which any individual or organisation was welcome to respond. The consultation period started on 10 September 2007 and finished on 6 November 2007.

I am arranging to have placed in the Library of the House the responses to the consultation on H14 ecotoxicity.

Pesticides Safety Directorate: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Pesticides Safety Directorate spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [281635]

Dan Norris: External consultancy spend in each of the last five financial years for the Pesticides Safety Directorate was as follows:

	Spend activity	*Amount (£000)*
2008-09	IT security accreditation	27
	Specialist IT support	61
	Annual Report and Accounts (design and printing)	10
	Customer survey	10
	Other	2
Total		110
2007-08	Specialist IT support	30
	Annual Report and Accounts (design and printing)	10
	Staff survey and IIP review	6
	Other	2
Total		48
2006-07	Specialist IT support	11
	Annual Report and Accounts (design and printing)	10
	Support to EU twinning project	7
	Other	7
Total		35
2005-06	Specialist IT support	36
	Annual Report and Accounts (design and printing)	7
	Business development	30
	Recruit Director of Finance, IT and Corporate Services	9
	Other	10
Total		92
2004-05	Specialist IT support	63
	Annual Report and Accounts (design and printing)	12
	Staff survey	17
	Other	11
Total		103

Property Searches

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Information Commissioner's Office, *(b)* Local Government Association and *(c)* Department for Communities and Local Government on the classification of local authority property search data as environmental information; and if he will make a statement. [284135]

Dan Norris: Officials in my Department have had discussions with all these bodies on the classification of local authority property search data as environmental information and these discussions are ongoing.

We understand the Information Commissioner intends to issue further guidance shortly.

Recycling

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps in co-operation with local authorities to ensure that recycling initiatives facilitate the participation of older people in composting and re-use schemes. [284051]

Dan Norris: While decisions on the most suitable waste management solution for an area are best left to the local authority concerned, DEFRA has always advised waste collection authorities to be open-minded and understanding when considering particular residents' needs, and flexible in the solutions the authority offers. Many local authorities offer assisted collections to the elderly to ensure, among other things, that they are able to fully participate in recycling and reuse initiatives.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Government Office regions have regional recycling forums. [284139]

Dan Norris: Four of the Government Office Regions have dedicated Regional Recycling Forums: the North West, North East, London and the South East.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department had provided to each regional improvement and efficiency partnership on the latest date for which information is available; and for what projects such funding was allocated. [284141]

Dan Norris: In 2008-09, DEFRA and the Department for Communities and Local Government provided £4 million to Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) for the delivery of a Climate Change Best Practice Programme. Responsibility for this programme passed from DEFRA to the Department for Energy and Climate Change on its creation in October 2008.

DEFRA provided a further £500,000 in 2008-09 and 2009-10 to support the RIEPs work on waste. The funding was paid to Improvement and Efficiency South East, which leads the RIEPs' national work in this area, to support local authorities develop partnership working on waste. This can help promote improvements to service delivery and realise efficiencies.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Veterinary Laboratories Agency office in each of the last five years. [283516]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have placed in the House Library the tables providing information on staff numbers at each of the VLA's 16 locations over the last five years.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department made to third sector organisations in 2007-08; how much was paid; and what the purpose of each such grant was. [284597]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not hold this information centrally. The Department's grant programmes are administered by a wide range of delivery bodies.

To collect the information centrally would incur disproportionate cost.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the ROAME document produced for his Department's research project on impacts of household charging in England, WR0708. [284140]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not create ROAME (Rationale, Objectives, Appraisal, Monitoring, Evaluation) statements for individual research projects but the process is adopted to provide a clear statement of rationale for developing projects under particular evidence programmes. ROAME statements have been created for each of the themes (A-F) of DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Strategy (2007-11). The project WR0708 falls under Theme A of this programme: Understanding Economics and Incentives. As requested, the ROAME statement for this part of the programme has been placed in the House Library.

Water Meters

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with Ofwat the introduction of a social tariff by water companies for low-income households which face higher costs from water metering. [284332]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Assistance is currently available to low income households that are metered through the Government's Vulnerable Groups Tariff, also known as WaterSure. This caps bills at the average bill for their water company if they receive means-tested benefits and suffer either from a medical condition which causes a substantial increase in the use of water or have three or more dependent children under 19 in full-time education. The independent Walker Review of charging for household water and sewerage services is looking at whether WaterSure should be revised.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on low-income households of water metering. [284333]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The interim report of the independent Walker Review of charging for household water and sewerage services was published on 29 June. It includes analysis of the costs and benefits of metering and the affordability of water. The report is available on DEFRA's website.

The final report is expected to be published in the autumn and the Government will provide a full response to this.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the effect on low-income households of water metering. [284334]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have regular meetings with the Consumer Council for Water, which represents the interests of water customers. These include discussions around metering and affordability.

The independent Walker Review of charging for household water and sewerage services received 78 responses to its call for evidence and held five stakeholder workshops. These included representations on metering and affordability.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Council Housing Waiting Lists

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the proposed duty of local authorities to tackle socio-economic disadvantage on their ability to give priority to housing applications from people who live in the area. [284092]

Michael Jabez Foster: The ability to attach priority to local connection will continue to be an important tool as local authorities use allocation policies to address socio-economic disadvantage.

Staff Survey

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to Lord Ouseley of 18 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA252, on Equality and Human Rights Commission, if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of the Commission's staff survey. [283973]

Michael Jabez Foster: A copy of the Equality and Human Rights Commission staff survey results has been placed in the Library of the House on their behalf.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding has been allocated under the CapacityBuilders programme to charitable organisations active in each constituency in Essex in the last 12 months. [283893]

Angela E. Smith: Capacitybuilders funding by constituency in Essex is as follows: Braintree: £325,037; Saffron Walden: £88,025; Rochford and Southend, East: £310,992; West Chelmsford: £125,880; Harwich: £3,000; Harlow: £2,000; Brentwood and Ongar: £2,000; Thurrock: £1,000. Please note that most funded projects will be providing benefit to a number of constituency areas. The variation in awards is due to the different types of funding programmes provided by Capacitybuilders. All allocations are subject to satisfactory verification of recipients' details. More information on the split between constituencies by grant programme is available as follows.

Programme	*Constituency*	*Allocation (£)*
Consortium Development Grant	Braintree	194,000
Improving Reach Grant	Saffron Walden	41,025
Improving Reach Grant	Rochford and Southend, East	308,992
Consortium Modernisation Grant	Braintree	64,607
Consortium Modernisation Grant	Braintree	62,430
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Braintree	4,000
Social Enterprise Programme	West Chelmsford	118,880
Regional Network Fund	Saffron Walden	45,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Rochford and Southend, East	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Harwich	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Harlow	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Harwich	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Brentwood and Ongar	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Rochford and Southend, East	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Brentwood and Ongar	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation fund	Saffron Walden	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Saffron Walden	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation fund	Harlow	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Thurrock	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	Harwich	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000
Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund	West Chelmsford	1,000

Intelligence Services: Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office who the project director of the SCOPE programme is; and if she will make a statement. [278986]

Angela E. Smith: There is no project director for the SCOPE programme.

Lobbying

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to respond to the First Report of the Public Administration Select Committee, Session 2008-09, on Lobbying: access and influence in Whitehall, HC 36. [284298]

Angela E. Smith: I refer my hon. Friend to the evidence I gave to the Public Administration Select Committee on 2 July 2009. I expect to be in a position to respond before the summer recess.

Managing Diversity

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 643-44W, on National School of Government, which public sector organisations sent representatives to the course held in Sunningdale Park in 2008. [249938]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to reply.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated July 2009:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minster for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the National School of Government.

The National School of Government's Managing Diversity five-day programme is for HR Practitioners and Diversity Officers from any organisation from all sectors. The 2008 course included one official from the following public authorities:

Channel 4;

University of Lincoln;

Charity Commission;

HM Prison Service;

Victoria and Albert Museum;

Suffolk Constabulary;

Ministry of Justice; and

two from the Department for Work and Pensions.

National School of Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the estimated running costs of the National School of Government are in 2009-10; [283581]

(2) how much funding the Government is providing to the National School of Government in 2009-10; [283582]

(3) how much the National School of Government received from each Government Department in payment for courses for their staff in each of the last three years. [283588]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to reply.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated Ju[illegible]

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The National School has running cost provision in the 2009-10 Main Parliamentary Estimates of £30,395,000 (PQ 283581).

The National School recovers the large majority of its costs from charging for the learning and development and consultancy services that it provides and is expected to earn Appropriations-in-Aid of £30,000,000 in 2009-10. £395,000 net funding is provided to the National School via the Parliamentary Estimate (PQ 283582).

The attached table shows the income that the National School received from government departments including agencies and other bodies in the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (PQ 283588). The income relates to departments:

1. sending staff on the School's open programmes that are contained in our portfolio. Latest information on courses and services is available on the National School website:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk

2. commissioning the School to run tailored programmes specifically for the department; and

3. consultancy work.

Some of the tailored work commissioned by departments may involve the attendance on programmes of people from outside the department. In particular, the Department for International Development commissions the School to carry out international work as part of the UK aid programme.

National School of Government: Income

			£
Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Animal Health	3,125.00	21,192.00	29,000.00
Army Training and Recruiting Agency	0.00	75,000.00	0.00
Assets Recovery Agency	34,707.00	56,794.00	1,260.00
Attorney-Generals Office	3,662.00	2,857.00	7,880.00
Big Lottery Fund	18,520.00	14,729.00	18,585.00
British Embassy	19,902.00	14,186.00	2,695.50
British High Commission	188,137.02	181,284.32	97,535.30
British Library	1,050.00	7,036.10	3,760.50
Buying Solutions	38,781.06	16,906.00	5,658.40
Cabinet Office	695,262.05	746,434.78	704,425.27
Central Office of Information	58,522.00	57,571.00	55,719.20
Central Science Laboratory	2,100.00	6,995.00	6,715.00
Centre for Applied Learning	14,608.00	9,492.00	0.00
Centre for Applied Learning (CAL)	0.00	25,177.79	17,275.00
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	4,290.00	10,180.00	16,365.00
Charity Commission	6,647.00	8,445.00	20,926.00
Child Support Agency	49,012.98	43,810.25	18,097.00
Commonwealth Secretariat	0.00	28,705.50	25,335.60
Communities and Local Government	696,004.58	658,672.50	627,285.50
Companies House	13,594.00	12,544.00	12,767.50
Criminal Justice System	655.00	957.50	3,750.00
Criminal Records Bureau	69,569.66	11,435.00	16,321.25
Crown Office	2,860.00	295.00	0.00
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	32,445.00	15,135.50	14,185.00
Crown Prosecution Service	103,600.22	132,822.70	110,068.00
Crown Solicitors Office	825.00	300.00	640.00
Customs and Revenue Internal Governance	0.00	3,016.20	0.00
Defence Bills Agency	0.00	0.00	19,200.00
Defence Estates	87,731.27	2,850.00	5,130.00
Defence Procurement Agency	1,550.00	0.00	0.00
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	57,834.00	30,215.00	42,155.96
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency	3,940.98	0.00	2,500.00
Defence Support Group	0.00	0.00	450.00
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	529,949.83	636,858.63	1,094,762.88
Department for Children, Schools and Families	770,205.47	702,053.29	737,187.63
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	204,312.35	270,726.45	240,528.80

National School of Government: Income

£

Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Department for Employment and Learning	18,410.00	3,880.00	1,850.00
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	789,963.79	816,484.64	592,635.09
Department for International Development	1,295,474.76	1,483,721.55	1,735,146.65
Department for Regional Development	15,819.00	19,010.00	8,510.00
Department for Social Development, N. Ireland	259,753.28	111,723.69	14,207.07
Department for Transport	565,741.01	521,764.10	498,985.41
Department for Work and Pensions	399,109.84	796,729.52	1,477,014.74
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure NI	3,998.99	0.00	425.00
Department of Education NI	18,605.00	14,740.00	146.00
Department of Energy and Climate Change	0.00	0.00	12,904.00
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	1,165.00	650.00	425.00
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI	15,360.00	15,365.00	1,420.00
Department of Health	379,172.96	489,235.82	560,525.99
Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety NI	28,333.66	650.00	18,360.00
Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform	3,280.00	3,380.00	0.00
Department of the Environment	16,944.00	8,610.00	4,210.00
Department of the Marine and Natural Resources	370.00	0.00	0.00
Drinking Water Inspectorate	0.00	0.00	1,570.00
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	142,469.64	111,494.55	110,443.70
Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency (NI)	1,125.00	0.00	0.00
Driving Standards Agency	30,889.26	22,323.00	42,775.00
Emergency Planning College	13,517.75	0.00	0.00
Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland	355.00	95.00	3,000.00
European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites	2,688.66	0.00	0.00
Export Credits Guarantee Department	26,015.84	51,151.50	26,769.00
Fire Service College	11,793.50	8,620.00	4,520.00
Fisheries Research Services Marine Laboratory	7,080.00	10,901.00	1,525.00
Food and Environment Research Agency	0.00	4,170.00	1,825.00
Food Standards Agency	325,520.19	486,997.81	282,230.01
Football Licensing Authority	400.00	1,515.00	3,844.00
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	761,098.43	797,549.02	1,352,216.14
Forensic Science Service	36,536.68	11,884.00	2,525.00
Forestry Commission	31,575.50	65,366.00	78,434.86
Gambling Commission	0.00	0.00	245.00
General Register Office (Scotland)	7,830.00	3,815.00	2,360.00
Government Actuary's Department	370.00	370.00	6,750.00
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1,900.00	5,360.00	1,000.00
Government Communication Bureau	29,150.00	19,525.00	5,675.00
Government Communication Planning Directorate	50,705.33	18,141.56	22,863.78
Government Communications Centre	0.00	0.00	6,500.00
Government Communications Headquarters	104,196.09	177,503.93	198,401.70
Government Equality Office	0.00	0.00	9,949.50
Government Office for the East of England	0.00	3,975.00	975.00
Government Office for the North West	105,279.84	125,066.19	104,368.29
Government Office for the South West	29,900.27	18,010.00	4,015.00
Government Skills	0.00	4,385.00	32,549.50
Govnet Communications	0.00	800.00	0.00
Health and Social Care Information Centre	1,640.00	0.00	0.00
Health and Safety Commission	0.00	305.00	0.00
Health and Safety Executive	247,182.20	298,267.57	221,732.00
Health and Safety Laboratory	6,746.00	1,700.00	6,525.00
Her Majesty's Government Communication Centre	5,400.00	20,160.00	18,480.50
Highways Agency	147,296.52	128,602.50	116,830.00
Historic Scotland	3,728.00	3,495.00	4,102.50
HM Courts Service	36,025.40	85,219.50	101,623.00
HM Inspectorate of Probation	0.00	0.00	10,800.00
HM Prison Service	186,780.94	325,205.71	336,955.61
HM Revenue and Customs	672,134.69	566,210.85	1,108,739.88
HM Treasury	438,574.84	428,926.99	366,797.00
Home Housing Corporation	0.00	0.00	900.00
Home Office	1,333,578.42	1,007,95823	1,325,400.68
Home Office: Border and Immigration Agency	14,090.00	29,943.00	9,565.25
Home Office: Centre for Learning and Development	0.00	3,200.00	7,200.00
Home Office: Immigration and Nationality	25,930.00	0.00	0.00
Home Office: Immigration Service	1,080.00	4,200.00	0.00
Home Office: Police Leadership and Powers Unit	0.00	18,748.50	0.00
House of Commons	168.00	0.00	555.50
Identity and Passport Service	148,643.45	150,221.96	175,972.20
Imperial War Museum	1,721.00	1,750.00	630.00
Independent Safeguarding Authority	0.00	0.00	2,020.00
Institute for Animal Health	0.00	1,134.00	1,360.00
Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research	2,890.00	0.00	0.00
Jobcentre Plus	87,214.85	55,355.17	103,064.50
Land Registry	200,159.78	305,461.00	187,680.50
Law Officers Department	0.00	0.00	705.00
Legal Services Commission	31,966.14	20,015.00	35,039.00
London Development Agency	0.00	4,825.00	1,730.00
Marine Fisheries Agency	0.00	555.00	12,575.00
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	20,634.25	17,717.50	14,320.00
Meat Hygiene Service	14,807.00	3,450.00	12,750.00
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	17,336.00	7,872.00	31,899.50
Met Office	57,341.63	64,230.20	20,130.80
Ministry of Defence	2,108,259.72	2,384,843.86	2,557,433.57
Ministry of Defence: Defence Equipment and Support	0.00	0.00	6,400.00
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency	0.00	0.00	9,722.72
Ministry of Justice	910,574.76	721,903.11	681,247.05
Museum of London	275.00	0.00	0.00
Museum of Science and Industry	0.00	0.00	665.00
Museums Libraries and Archives Council	5,795.00	1,385.00	1,500.00
National Archives	22,139.50	10,077.50	34,706.00
National Archives of Scotland	0.00	990.00	270.00
National Audit Office	4,540.00	9,430.00	14,005.00
National Employment Panel	0.00	4,095.00	0.00
National Gallery	0.00	600.00	630.00

National School of Government: Income

£

Organisation	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
National Heritage Memorial Fund	890.00	1,420.00	0.00
National Maritime Museum	0.00	4,250.00	0.00
National Museum of Science and Industry	0.00	6,530.00	0.00
National Museums of Liverpool	9,744.36	0.00	0.00
National Offender Management Service	0.00	1,360.00	14,150.00
National Portrait Gallery	0.00	850.00	330.00
National Savings and Investments	4,345.00	10,283.00	7,847.00
Natural History Museum	3,520.00	1,535.00	3,290.00
Northern Ireland Audit Office	1,925.00	1,701.00	25,550.00
Northern Ireland Civil Service	4,710.00	1,870.00	1,060.00
Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment	0.00	660.00	0.00
Northern Ireland Court Service	36,195.00	28,964.00	38,647.00
Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development	0.00	0.00	11,000.00
Northern Ireland Executive: Department Finance and Personnel	127,356.06	42,680.28	40,710.60
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	470.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Ireland Office	172,310.12	155,719.03	145,076.75
Northern Ireland Prison Service	5,850.00	3,550.00	4,725.00
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	0.00	2,280.00	36,054.50
Office for National Statistics	83,336.65	117,414.00	141,930.01
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	99,330.00	69,080.00	63,075.00
Office of Climate Change	0.00	7,448.00	2,990.00
Office of Communications	6,264.00	4,805.00	8,017.00
Office of Fair Trading	73,978.25	38,533.00	55,736.86
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	32,274.00	20,722.00	8,970.40
Office of Government Commerce	112,563.69	136,063.35	146,938.60
Office of Public Guardian	4,183.00	12,443.00	18,901.00
Office of Rail Regulation	43,586.00	32,744.00	35,532.50
Office of the Civil Service Commissioners	1,870.00	0.00	410.00
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	6,070.29	1,889.50	585.00
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner	8,790.00	4,580.00	895.00
Office of Water Services	9,777.50	2,200.00	6,061.00
Offices of Court Funds, Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	0.00	0.00	2,235.00
Olympic Delivery Authority	5,597.10	2,230.24	4,960.00
Ordnance Survey	12,601.50	24,085.00	16,755.50
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland	0.00	4,480.00	841.00
Pensions Transformation Programme	1,590.00	0.00	0.00
Pesticides Safety Directorate	805.00	450.00	0.00
Planning Inspectorate	4,164.00	18,295.00	51,036.00
Postal Services Commission (Postcomm)	12,755.00	64,348.50	51,640.00
Prime Ministers Delivery Unit	0.00	0.00	750.00
Prime Minister's Delivery Unit	2,430.00	0.00	0.00
Prime Minister's Office	3,015.00	2,585.00	17,991.00
Prison Service College	2,720.00	0.00	0.00
Privy Council Office	36,865.00	17,850.00	4,100.00
Probation Board for Northern Ireland	0.00	0.00	945.00
Public Lending Right	1,380.00	0.00	540.00
Public Prosecution Service	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Public Service Management Wales	0.00	0.00	350.00
Regional Co-ordination Unit	4,660.00	2,479.00	5,940.00
Registers of Scotland	41,321.50	38,880.00	34,444.00
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office	25,220.00	72,941.50	53,264.00
Royal Armouries Museum	0.00	0.00	2,654.00
Royal Mint	2,050.00	2,350.00	350.00
Royal Parks Agency	12,214.50	8,175.00	10,740.00
Rural Payments Agency	66,209.88	71,265.50	57,441.00
Scotland Office	7,345.00	2,755.00	5,895.00
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency	2,475.00	2,425.00	4,345.00
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	17,160.20	2,212.00	28,915.00
Scottish Executive Health Department	1,445.00	0.00	0.00
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	0.00	1,580.00	10,305.00
Scottish Information Commissioner	0.00	0.00	3,085.00
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	11,275.05	12,825.00	19,360.49
Serious Fraud Office	17,024.00	47,941.50	31,097.00
Serious Organised Crime Agency	19,725.00	42,382.00	120,166.20
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	0.00	1,025.00	2,080.00
Small Business Service	3,490.00	0.00	0.00
Social Security Agency	1,737.50	0.00	0.00
Specialist Procurement Services Agency	0.00	95.00	0.00
The Advocate-General for Scotland	1,025.00	0.00	0.00
The Crown Estate	285.00	0.00	0.00
The National Assembly for Wales	324,061.86	172,151.50	64,490.00
The Oil and Pipelines Agency	720.00	575.00	2,840.00
The Pension Service	70,013.25	8,665.00	22,434.00
The Planning Service	0.00	95.00	125.00
The Rent Service	34,092.10	10,990.00	10,013.00
The Royal Household	990.00	1,290.00	4,220.00
The Science and Technology Facilities Council	0.00	650.00	0.00
The Scottish Government	109,594.80	237,124.79	280,116.91
The Scottish Parliament	17,805.00	6,330.00	14,754.00
The Security Service	0.00	15,457.00	2,450.00
Training Development Agency for Schools	17,385.00	20,921.20	26,996.00
Transport for Scotland	2,770.00	2,358.00	3,295.00
Treasury Solicitor's Department	218,880.65	255,764.75	230,353.50
Tribunals Service	1,055.00	37,867.86	26,502.00
UK Film Council	7,868.75	0.00	770.00
UK Insolvency Service	33,789.00	36,294.50	54,605.00
UK Intellectual Property Office	44,333.24	70,050.75	114,944.08
UK Permanent Representation to European Union	6,440.00	0.00	0.00
UK Sport	14,452.14	12,435.56	6,871.18
UK Trade and Investment	96,541.83	42,640.75	87,350.82
UK Visas United (Joint FCO/Home Office Directorate)	34,612.50	11,150.00	3,740.00
United Kingdom Debt Management Office	1,065.00	500.00	0.00
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office	7,253.11	13,315.00	9,915.00
Valuation and Lands Agency	670.00	0.00	0.00
Valuation Office Agency	22,910.50	22,120.00	11,580.00
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	62,387.25	43,570.00	40,554.44
Vehicle Certification Agency	1,335.00	3,525.00	0.00
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	11,076.50	11,470.00	2,650.00
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	10,989.50	19,135.50	16,403.00
Victoria and Albert Museum	0.00	1,705.00	0.00
Wales Audit Office	3,915.00	830.00	0.00

National School of Government: Income

£

Organisation	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Wales Office	3,975.00	4,596.00	1,617.00
Welsh Assembly Government	14,609.30	166,089.74	247,743.04
Wilton Park	360.00	0.00	395.00
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	8,963.00	19,318.30	13,091.00

Stress

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public authorities have provided stress management training courses for their staff through the National School of Government in the last 36 months. [258615]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to reply.

Letter form Rod Clark, dated July 2009:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the National School of Government.

Since July 2006 the National School of Government has run one Stress Management Workshop. Members of staff from the following public authorities attended:

The Home Office;

Department for Work and Pensions;

Communities and Local Government;

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

National School of Government;

Office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman; and

The House of Lords.

Stress Management is part of the overall Organisational Health and Well Being agenda which is recognised as essential to the component of engaging employees to achieve effective performance.

Water

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effect on the publication of the Basingstoke Water Cycle report of the interpretation of the national security circular in relation to water assets. [283880]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 29 June 2009]*: None.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what role job centres have in the promotion and uptake of Government-funded apprenticeships. [272623]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what role Jobcentres have in the promotion and uptake of Government-funded apprenticeships. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus work in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council and local agencies to promote apprenticeship opportunities and our advisers will discuss and refer customers to apprenticeship vacancies in the normal course of business. Apprenticeship vacancies that are notified to Jobcentre Plus are clearly displayed on Jobpoints in all Jobcentres and on our vacancies Internet site.

In addition, we signpost and refer customers to careers advisory services where customers who might benefit from apprenticeship training receive more in-depth advice and guidance.

Jobcentre Plus promotes the Government's funding for training to employers as part of our integrated approach to providing an employment and skills service with our learning and skills partners.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals for non-resident parents to be reimbursed for clothing purchased for their children; and if she will make a statement. [283990]

Helen Goodman: There is no specific provision in legislation which allows the Child Support Agency to treat clothing purchased for children as "voluntary payments" for child maintenance purposes. However, the Agency is able to treat any form of payment as a voluntary payment where the parent with care accepts them in lieu of child maintenance; this could include clothing purchased for children.

An amendment to legislation is not therefore appropriate in this case.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many private sector organisations have submitted proposals to her Department under the right to bid programme on improving the delivery of services provided by her Department; how many of these proposals relating to each of her Department's services are being considered by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [273936]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 May 2009]*: The right to bid initiative was introduced on 1 January 2009 and we are pleased to say that we have had a significant amount of interest. As of 6 July 2009, 91 bids have been received from a mixture of organisations, 47 of which are from private sector organisations.

Disability Living Allowance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance her Department issues to assessors on the account to be taken of representations by *(a)* parents and *(b)* professionals who know the child concerned in determining amounts of disability living allowance in respect of young people with autism; [284257]

(2) what training her Department's officials who assess claims for disability living allowance receive in respect of issues affecting young people with autism. [284258]

Jonathan Shaw: All claims for disability living allowance are decided by decision makers who are required to make decisions fairly and impartially based on the application of the law to the facts of the individual case.

Decision maker training covers all available legal and medical guidance in relation to the weighing of evidence from individual sources. The impairment specific training received by decision makers includes sessions on autistic spectrum disorder and learning disability. Evidence provided by parents and professionals involved in the care of children with autistic spectrum disorder are considered an important source of evidence.

The Department provides decision makers with guidance on deciding claims for disability living allowance within the Decision Makers Guide. In addition, guidance is given in respect of children with autistic spectrum disorder within the Disability Handbook which includes guidance on the best sources of evidence.

The Department is reviewing and updating medical guidance for people under 16 covering a number of impairments with relevant medical experts. Autistic spectrum disorder is included in this review.

All staff determining claims to disability living allowance receive training on how to use all guidance. Advise is also provided on how to interpret information provided by parents and other professionals. This will also be reviewed and updated in line with the new medical guidance.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals claiming *(a)* employment support allowance and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance who voluntarily disclosed the use of crack cocaine or heroin were referred to a drug treatment provider in each of the last two months for which figures are available. [284994]

Jim Knight: The information is not currently available broken down into benefit types. The available information is in the following table.

Total number of individuals who voluntarily disclosed the use of crack cocaine or heroin and who were referred to a drug treatment provider since 27 April 2009

Month	Number of referrals made nationally
April 2009	14
May 2009	55
June 2009	85

Ethnic Employment Taskforce

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of a sample fictitious job application made to a business by the Ethnic Employment Taskforce. [284294]

Jim Knight: The Racial Discrimination in Recruitment report will be placed in the Library when it is published this autumn. It will contain examples of the CVs used.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions between what dates the Ethnic Employment Taskforce sent fictitious job applications to businesses; and at what cost to the public purse. [284295]

Jim Knight: CVs and application forms were sent out by the research company to businesses between November 2008 and May 2009. The total cost of the research project including fieldwork, analysis of data and the production of the final report will be £168,700.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Ethnic Employment Taskforce consulted organisations representing *(a)* employers and *(b)* businesses on its proposal to submit fictitious job applications to businesses before such applications were sent. [284296]

Jim Knight: In October 2007, the employer-led Business Commission on Race Equality recommended 'matched CV' testing to measure progress towards eliminating the ethnic minority employment gap. The Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted this recommendation and asked the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force (EMETF) to oversee delivery and report back to him in writing by December 2009. A Confederation of British Industry (CBI) member sits on the EMETF. The CBI is also on the steering group for the research project.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an impact assessment has been undertaken in respect of the *(a)* Future Jobs Fund and *(b)* Young Persons' Guarantee. [285149]

Jim Knight: Both an equality impact assessment and a privacy impact assessment have been prepared for the Future Jobs Fund and Young Person's Guarantee. These are currently being quality assessed. Following this, they will be published in line with current guidance.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to members of frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus was *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each Jobcentre Plus district on the latest date for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [269536]

Jim Knight: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff engaged in what types of work were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each month since January 2007. [271695]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff engaged in what types of work were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each month since January 2007. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The tables below show the number of staff against a range of activities for each month from January 2007 up to February 2009. Functions in the customer service operations part of Jobcentre Plus are standard activities and each month Jobcentre Plus captures how many full-time equivalents are deployed on each of these activities. In addition to staff deployed on standard activities, there are also around 2,500 people in Directorates who support Jobcentre Plus operations. People in these roles undertake a wide variety of activities and are recorded as Other Business Support.

	2007		
	January	*February*	*March*
Jobcentre Plus Activities	69,766	69,181	67,751
Income Support (IS) New Claims Processing	1,691	1,667	1,645
IS Claims Maintenance	3,749	3,788	3,691
Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) New Claims Processing	3,483	3,431	3,379
JSA Claims Maintenance	2,118	2,132	2,057
Incapacity Benefit (IB) New Claims Processing	1,332	1,348	1,339
IB Claims Maintenance	2,998	3,015	2,967
Benefit Telephony Team	3,143	3,152	3,069
Social Fund Activities	2,975	2,943	2,887

	2007		
	January	*February*	*March*
Benefit Management	399	390	380
Other Benefit Processing and Maintenance Activities	10,174	9,898	9,537
Provide Fraud Investigation Service	2,865	2,816	2,750
Provide Customer Compliance Service	875	870	866
Job Seeker Direct	886	906	809
Employer Vacancy Handling	1,454	1,428	1,402
Job Enquiry Activities	59	59	61
3rd Party Provision Management (non European Social Fund—ESF)	244	240	234
3rd Party Provision Management (ESF)	131	135	132
Job Search Review	4,578	4,511	4,407
Disability Services	374	378	359
Employment Zones Initiatives	36	36	35
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	12,107	12,083	11,947
New Deal for Disabled People	92	82	72
Provide Fraud and Error Risk Management	320	320	313
Business Support Activities	8,925	8,902	8,876
Other Business Support	4,766	4,651	4,557

	2007									2008		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
JCP Activities	67,562	66,903	67,100	67,391	67,241	67,050	66,944	67,083	67,005	66,951	66,846	66,378
IS—New Claims	1,592	1,550	1,544	1,536	1,504	1,480	1,441	1,433	1,439	1,408	1,387	1,377
IS Claims Maintenance	2,600	2,653	2,666	2,564	2,534	2,526	2,514	2,552	2,513	2,473	2,532	2,501
JSA New Claims Processing	1,698	1,700	1,708	1,694	1,666	1,655	1,654	1,606	1,571	1,546	1,546	1,558
JSA Claims Maintenance	1,509	1,495	1,526	1,548	1,563	1,580	1,550	1,543	1,567	1,560	1,560	1,564
Benefit Telephony Team	2,420	2,507	2,515	2,631	3,005	3,058	3,156	3,310	3,361	3,418	3,412	3,416
IB New Claims Processing	1,074	1,048	1,049	1,054	1,020	1,002	989	996	987	966	958	959
Incapacity Benefit Claims Maintenance	2,426	2,364	2,390	2,359	2,344	2,341	2,322	2,308	2,298	2,293	2,279	2,251
Debt Referrals Activities	481	504	493	504	580	600	602	605	582	585	578	550
Social Fund Activities	2,906	2,925	3,001	3,358	3,157	3,358	3,343	3,239	3,295	3,221	3,205	3,111
Benefit Management	479	477	476	473	495	494	489	484	484	493	494	487
Other Benefit Processing and Maintenance Activities	14,469	14,316	14,136	13,938	13,668	13,414	13,323	13,288	13,256	13,236	13,167	12,972
Provide Fraud Investigation Service	2,783	2,740	2,743	2,736	2,726	2,723	2,716	2,713	2,692	2,682	2,688	2,697
Provide Customer Compliance Service	879	875	893	896	893	897	901	910	920	918	916	940
Job Seeker Direct	761	722	718	588	666	536	529	606	665	597	598	583

	2007									2008		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
National Sales Team	144	151	148	148	150	159	173	174	173	173	175	166
Employer Vacancy Handling	1,226	1,182	1,206	1,280	1,238	1,163	1,108	1,241	1,223	1,267	1,289	1,330
Job Enquiry Activities	148	152	[illegible]	144	138	122	128	119	113	116	112	107
3rd Party Provision Management (non ESF)	234	230	229	222	217	219	217	226	228	227	230	237
3rd Party Provision Management (ESF)	136	133	134	140	141	137	137	133	134	127	125	136
Job Search Review	4,613	4,583	4,657	4,797	4,853	4,796	4,755	4,743	4,747	4,800	4,816	4,768
Allowance Payment Processors	814	665	517	448	406	369	317	313	302	292	282	294
Disability Services	86	86	81	87	88	87	86	82	80	77	79	82
Access to Work (includes Management and Support)	274	261	259	257	255	253	256	257	257	256	253	252
Employment Zones Initiatives	27	26	29	31	33	34	35	37	36	42	44	44
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	11,801	11,973	12,235	12,358	12,422	12,516	12,595	12,647	12,699	12,781	12,746	12,695
New Deal for Disabled People	74	71	68	67	59	55	54	50	45	31	29	27
Jobcentre Manager (JCM)	406	442	464	487	506	511	528	538	538	545	552	549
Provide Fraud and Error Risk Management	295	297	290	291	282	286	284	286	285	278	280	288
Business Support Activities	6,844	6,856	6,934	6,900	6,960	6,941	6,933	6,949	6,931	7,067	7,162	7,166
Other Business Support	4,192	3,943	3,882	3,856	3,753	3,738	3,726	3,697	3,686	3,493	3,414	3,355

	2008									2009	
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*
JCP Activities	65,979	65,607	66,505	67,308	67,346	66,975	66,733	66,890	67,165	67,941	68,313
IS New Claims Processing	1,330	1,317	1,345	1,337	1,318	1,182	1,140	993	899	795	716
IS Claims Maintenance	2,455	2,463	2,446	2,499	2,472	2,360	2,299	2,239	2,230	2,186	2,124
JSA New Claims Processing	1,548	1,569	1,614	1,618	1,647	1,610	1,657	1,752	1,853	2,294	2,433
JSA Claims Maintenance	1,612	1,601	1,545	1,503	1,601	1,573	1,524	1,508	1,567	1,593	1,609
IB New Claims Processing	967	937	939	909	912	751	719	567	481	394	302

	2008									2009	
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Incapacity Benefit Claims Maintenance	2,218	2,271	2,293	2,376	2,366	2,211	2,187	2,061	2,004	1,942	1,896
ESA New Claims Processing	0	0	0	0	40	474	680	958	1,066	1,101	1,130
ESA—Claims Maintenance	0	0	0	0	15	220	230	306	401	508	614
Social Fund Activities	2,558	2,605	2,667	2,777	2,749	2,731	2,733	2,745	2,757	2,817	2,827
Benefit Telephony Team	3,403	3,406	3,512	3,638	3,608	3,599	3,586	3,590	3,655	3,679	3,720
Debt Referrals Activities	461	435	514	480	455	443	436	435	422	405	396
Other Benefit Processing and Maintenance Activities	8,535	8,400	8,333	8,318	8,280	8,171	8,063	8,012	7,988	7,971	7,841
Benefit Management	480	478	488	495	490	489	500	526	531	541	543
Provide Fraud Investigation Service	2,930	2,841	2,820	2,817	2,799	2,804	2,797	2,781	2,769	2,779	2,790
Provide Customer Compliance Service	911	904	903	902	894	881	883	887	880	854	836
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	12,800	12,862	12,978	13,217	13,287	13,365	13,387	13,444	13,524	13,892	14,015
Employer Vacancy Handling	1,026	1,098	1,197	1,300	1,394	1,457	1,478	1,467	1,438	1,406	1,398
Job Enquiry Activity	110	95	89	86	75	76	73	62	61	64	64
3rd Party Provision Management	235	234	225	228	232	239	240	246	247	243	241
ESF	107	109	112	122	110	116	130	115	113	110	112
Job Search Review	4,665	4,612	4,746	5,067	5,122	5,007	4,881	4,860	4,923	5,037	5,249
Allowance Payment Processors	240	238	238	234	233	235	237	242	233	234	232
Disability Services	83	86	86	87	87	86	83	82	81	81	85
Employment Zones Initiatives	47	48	49	42	37	34	30	29	28	31	31
New Deal for Disabled People	21	20	22	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	4
Customer Service Manager	1,382	1,370	1,380	1,404	1,423	1,428	1,404	1,403	1,429	1,452	1,495
Jobcentre Manager (JCM)	555	550	567	563	587	576	573	580	564	571	572
National Sales Team	133	76	56	43	45	44	47	53	61	62	59
Access to Work (includes Management and Support)	253	252	250	259	267	262	260	261	258	250	243

	2008									2009	
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Contact Centre Agents	5,623	5,463	5,653	5,882	5,720	5,580	5,601	5,758	5,854	5,973	6,019
Provide Fraud and Error Risk Management	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Support Activities	6,585	6,591	6,527	6,569	6,601	6,616	6,379	6,551	6,507	6,360	6,367
Other Business Support	2,697	2,658	2,886	2,419	2,380	2,356	2,363	2,365	2,344	2,353	2,329

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff engaged in what types of work were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 1997. [271696]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff engaged in what types of work were employed by Jobcentre Plus (JCP) in each year since 1997. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The enclosed tables show the average number of staff across each year from April 2003 up to February 2009, against a range of activities. Information is not available prior to April 2003. Functions in the customer service operations part of Jobcentre Plus are standard activities and each month Jobcentre Plus captures how many full-time equivalents are deployed on each of these activities. In addition to staff deployed on these activities, there are also around 2,500 people in Directorates that support Jobcentre Plus operations. People in these roles undertake a wide variety of activities and are recorded as Other Business Support.

You will see in the table a sharp reduction in Personal Adviser numbers between 2004/05 (22,479) and 2005/06 (14,614). You will wish to note that is due to staff involved in Fortnightly Job Reviews being removed from the Personal Adviser count from 2005/06 and subsequently.

JCP activities	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
IS Claims	2,845	2,311	1,941
IS Load	4,500	4,203	4,059
JSA Claims	2,811	2,433	2,179
JSA Load	2,488	2,184	1,966
IB Claims	1,933	1,603	1,357
IB Load	3,359	3,418	3,157
Social Fund Activities	3,484	3,316	3,367
Other Benefit Processing and Maintenance Activities	7,946	8,493	11,982
Benefit Management	—	—	400
Customer Compliance	—	—	1,084
Criminal Investigation	—	—	2,698
Job Enquiries Activity	—	—	1,062
Vacancy Service Manager	—	—	720
Counter-Fraud Investigation Service	4,560	4,176	—
Jobseeker Direct	882	762	882
Jobsearch Review Activity	—	—	4,488
Disability Services	420	428	1,024
Employment Zones	31	47	38
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	22,966	22,479	14,614
NDDP	—	—	178
Business Support Activities	16,785	16,687	9,952
Other Business Support	—	—	1,452
Total	75,010	72,540	68,600

JCP activities	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
IS New Claims Processing	1,768	1,467	1,120
IS Claims Maintenance	3,700	2,548	2,331
JSA New Claims Processing	3,416	1,626	1,771
JSA Claims Maintenance	1,978	1,540	1,572
Debt Referrals Activities	—	546	442
IB New Claims Processing	1,282	1,004	712
Incapacity Benefit Claims Maintenance	2,966	2,315	2,155
ESA New Claims Processing	—	—	486
ESA-Claims Maintenance	—	—	208
Benefit Telephony Team	2,693	3,002	3,570
Social Fund Activities	2,860	3,158	2,711
Benefit Management	454	482	503
Other Benefit Processing and Maintenance Activities	10,003	13,535	8,135
Provide Fraud Investigation Service	1,642	2,708	2,796
Provide Customer Compliance Service	883	897	882
Job Seeker Direct	897	621	—
National Sales Team	—	160	59
Employer Vacancy Handling	1,521	1,229	1,427
Job Enquiry Activities	28	128	77
3rd Party Provision Management (non ESF)	283	224	—
3rd Party Provision Management (ESF)	137	133	—
3rd Party Provision Management	—	—	235
ESF	—	—	113
Job Search Review	4,571	4,721	4,901
Allowance Payment Processors	—	416	235
Disability Services	381	83	84
Access to Work (includes Management and Support)	—	256	254
Customer Service Agent	—	—	5,610
Employment Zones Initiatives	40	35	37

JCP activities	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	11,697	12,401	13,278
New Deal for Disabled People	119	52	9
Customer Service Manager	—	—	1,410
Jobcentre Manager (JCM)	—	503	568
Provide Fraud and Error Risk Management	1,648	285	1
Business Support Activities	9,367	6,932	6,500
Other Business Support	5,090	3,710	2,456
Total	69,425	66,719	66,648

Local Employment Partnership Awards 2009

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 123W, on local employment partnerships, what the final cost was of the Local Employment Partnership Awards 2009; and how much *(a)* each of the 11 local award ceremonies and *(b)* the grand final cost. [285074]

Jim Knight: The Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) Awards 2009 are an integral part of our strategy to support the delivery of LEPs across Great Britain. We want more employers to work through LEPs so that unemployed people have a better chance to get back to work.

The Awards have been established to highlight the major benefits that LEP participation has brought to employers and partners and to celebrate the success of individual employees who have found sustainable work through the programme.

An overall budget of £663,000 was allocated to support this work and we have delivered the events under budget due to cost savings negotiated with suppliers. Final figures for the cost of each event are listed in the following table:

Cost breakdown for the 12 country/regional and national awards

LEP awards	*Event costs (£)*
Scotland Award	55,481.13
North East Award	51,757.25
North West Award	53,970.56
Yorkshire and the Humber Award	55,048.47
Wales Award	53,480.66
West Midlands Award	58,039.11
East Midlands Award	50,878.04
East of England Award	52,016.32
South East Award	55,249.40
London Award	54,988.52
South West Award	51,465.55
National Award	39,441.82
Total costs	631,816.83

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* short-term job outcomes defined as 13 weeks of employment and *(b)* sustained job outcomes defined as 26 weeks employment likely to be achieved by flexible new deal providers for Phase 1 in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [277222]

Jim Knight: The performance offers of each provider for the flexible new deal (FND) contracts are commercially sensitive. We have notified bidders of the results of the FND competition and we intend to award contracts in good time to begin delivery in October 2009.

Social Security Benefits

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for claims received for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* winter fuel allowance in (i) the UK, (ii) the north-east, (iii) Teesside and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency was in the latest period for which figures are available. [282940]

Angela Eagle: Information is not available in the format requested.

Pension credit information is not available broken down geographically. Information on the national average actual clearance times (AACT) for pension credit for 2008-09 is in the following table.

Pension credit clearance times: Great Britain, 2008-09

	Working days/number
Target AACT (Working days)	15
Total Processed (Number)	298,075
AACT (Working days)	15

Note:
The AACT is calculated by dividing the total number of working days taken to clear cases by the total number of cases cleared.
Source:
Pension Service Legacy System.

Information for jobseeker's allowance is not available by local authority district or parliamentary constituency. The available information for jobseeker's allowance is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance average actual clearance times, June 2008 to May 2009

	Working days
Great Britain	10.1
North East Benefit Delivery	9.3
Newcastle BDC	8.5
Sunderland BDC	9.7
Stockton BDC	9.6

Source:
Management Information System Programme.

Information is not available for processing times for winter fuel payments as the process is largely automatic.

Winter fuel payments are made to eligible customers aged 60 or over, each year to provide help with fuel bills.

During 2008-09 DWP delivered automatic winter fuel payments to over 99.9 per cent. of eligible customers by the end of December, and as a result, over 12.5 million customers received their payment before Christmas 2008.

We paid over £2.7 billion in winter fuel payments to over 12.6 million customers.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make an assessment of the merits of introducing mechanisms for the monitoring by independent assessors of doctors conducting medical assessment interviews for the work capability assessments of vulnerable claimants. [271106]

Jonathan Shaw: Robust mechanisms already exist to monitor the quality of the Work Capability Assessments. Monitoring is carried out by Atos Healthcare, the company which is contracted to provide medical services to the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department also carries out a range of quality checks independently.

JUSTICE

Consultants: Ministry of Justice

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and what proportion of his Department's expenditure on external consultants in 2008-09 was incurred on each project or programme. [281154]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry's provisional expenditure on external consultants in 2008-09 is £53,600,000. This is disclosed in the Ministry of Justice departmental annual report 2008-09 on page 72 which can be found in the link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/justice-annual-report-2008-09.htm

This amount covers the Ministry of Justice HQ, HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, and the National Offender Management Service. This figure is an early estimate and will be subject to change.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) collates data on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value Programme which assists Departments in driving greater value from Government's use of consultants.

The finalised figures for 2008-09 will be available on the OGC website (see link) in due course. A manual data collection exercise for this period is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009 with the data expected at 31 October 2009.

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

The information requested for each project or programme is not held centrally and would involve a manual trawl of each unit at a disproportionate cost.

Crime: Justice

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offences committed in each of the last 12 years were classified as offences brought to justice within 18 months of the offence being committed. [283856]

Claire Ward: The number of recorded crimes and offences brought to justice (OBTJ) for the period year ending March 1999 to year ending December 2008 (latest available) are given in Table 1.

It is not possible to directly compare recorded crimes and offences brought to justice. Crimes and offences brought to justice are not measured in the same way. The Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime provide a framework for the consistent recording of crimes by police forces based on reports from victims and witnesses, whereas offences brought to justice are a count of the convictions, cautions, penalty notices for disorder and cannabis warnings given to individuals for separate offences in law, or the number of separate offences taken into consideration. As such, it is not possible for published statistics to directly link individual recorded crimes to the offences for which the offender is subsequently brought to justice.

In addition, there is an inevitable time lag between a crime being committed and the offence being brought to justice at court, so the level of recorded crime in a particular period is not directly comparable to the number of offences brought to justice in the same period. However, in the vast majority of cases offences will be brought to justice within 18 months of the crime being recorded.

Table 1: Number of recorded crimes[1, 2, 3] and offences brought to justice (OBTJ)[4] for the period year ending March 1999 to year ending December 2008

Thousand

12 months ending	*Number of crimes recorded by the police*	*Total offences brought to justice*
March 1999	5,109	1,103
June 1999	5,195	1,096
September 1999	5,234	1,086
December 1999	5,261	1,085
March 2000	5,301	1,084
June 2000	5,262	1,071
September 2000	5,218	1,046
December 2000	5,195	1,013
March 2001	5,162	996
June 2001	5,209	989
September 2001	5,298	989
December 2001	5,422	1,001
March 2002	5,525	1,002
June 2002	5,670	1,010
September 2002	5,787	1,025
December 2002	5,844	1,031
March 2003	5,898	1,038
June 2003	5,910	1,044
September 2003	5,932	1,051
December 2003	5,932	1,060
March 2004	5,935	1,077
June 2004	5,850	1,087
September 2004	5,750	1,097
December 2004	5,679	1,125
March 2005	5,560	1,138
June 2005	5,523	1,187
September 2005	5,507	1,235
December 2005	5,504	1,277
March 2006	5,479	1,327
June 2006	5,452	1,356
September 2006	5,414	1,386
December 2006	5,387	1,409
March 2007	5,351	1,423
June 2007	5,255	1,444
September 2007	5,139	1,454
December 2007	4,982	1,456
March 2008	4,951	[5]1,446
June 2008	4,869	[5]1,430

Table 1: Number of recorded crimes[1, 2, 3] and offences brought to justice (OBTJ)[4] for the period year ending March 1999 to year ending December 2008

Thousand

12 months ending	*Number of crimes recorded by the police*	*Total offences brought to justice*
September 2008	4,838	[5]1,406
December 2008	4,789	[5]1,386

[1] Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 43 forces in England and Wales excludes British Transport for the period before year ending March 2008

[2] Includes British Transport police from period year ending March 2008.

[3] The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) in April 2002 resulted in significant increases in the number of crimes recorded.

[4] Excludes British Transport police

[5] The numbers of offences brought to justice (OBTJ) for 2008 are un-validated data from the courts and police, therefore provided as management information as they are provisional and likely to change.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Disability Living Allowance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals his Department has received against a refusal to award disability living allowance to a young person diagnosed with autism in each year since 2001. [284259]

Bridget Prentice: The First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) does not keep the information requested in a readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following disability living allowance data is available.

Total number of disability living allowance appeals

	Number of appeals cleared at hearing
2001-02	78,169
2002-03	71,034
2003-04	71,800
2004-05	73,211
2005-06	71,125
2006-07	63,727
2007-08	58,842
2008-09	54,645

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training members of appeals tribunals considering awards of disability living allowance receive in respect of issues affecting young people with autism. [284261]

Bridget Prentice: The First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) panels which hear disability living allowance appeals are composed of three members: a legally qualified member, a medically qualified member and a member with experience of disability issues.

All members of the disability living allowance panel attend refresher training once every three years. While this training is seldom specific to any particular age group or medical condition, it often involves consideration of case studies which deal with the type of physical and mental disability (including autism) which frequently present themselves at tribunals. The same considerations apply to the residential training for lawyers which all fee paid tribunal judges attend once every four years. Both these training sessions are mandatory.

All medically qualified panel members who hear disability living allowance appeals were invited to attend a one day training programme during the period 2005-07. The main focus of the training was on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autistic spectrum disorders, including issues affecting young children with autism. The take-up for this training was 87 per cent. and training material was also made available on the judicial website.

In addition, all members of the panel are issued with the Department for Work and Pensions Disability Handbook which has a chapter devoted to autism and Asperger syndrome.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine for a person convicted of an offence under section *(a)* 14(3) and *(b)* 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was in the last 12 months. [283726]

Claire Ward: The average fine imposed at all courts for seat belt offences under sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Act (RTA) 1988 in England and Wales, 2007 is shown in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify section 14 (3) from other offences in sections 14 and 15.

Section 41D of the RTA 1988, as added by the Road Safety Act 2006 S.26, which came into force February 2007, gave authority to existing regulations, under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, to make certain offences endorsable. The average fine imposed at all courts for these offences are also given in the table.

Court proceedings date for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The average fine imposed at all courts for selected motoring offences[1], England and Wales, 2007[2]

Offence description	*Average fine (£)*
Seat belt offences	54
Use of hand held mobile phone while driving	82
Causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle	76
Using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road	74

[1] Includes the following statute:

Road Traffic Act 1988 Sections 14(1), (2), (3), 15(1)(A), (2) & (4), & 15B

Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, R.110(1)(2)(3)

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the principal duties are of each director of offender management in England and Wales; and whether they have responsibility to supervise the activities of frontline probation services; [280179]

(2) how many directors of offender management have been appointed in England and Wales; how many staff are employed by each; what percentage of staff employed by each was previously employed *(a)* in HM Probation Service, *(b)* in HM Prison Service background and *(c)* elsewhere. [280180]

Maria Eagle: The principle duties of each director of offender management in England and Wales includes delivery of the departmental strategic objective of protecting the public and reducing reoffending through driving the effective integration of the work of all agencies in localities and across the region. While a key element of this work is to optimise the integration of the prison and the national probation service at local and regional levels, to protect the public, reduce reoffending and improve performance they are not directly responsible for the supervision of front-line probation as this is the responsibility of the probation chief officers via relevant probation boards or trusts.

There are 10 directors of offender management in post in England and Wales. The remaining region is currently being filled by an interim appointment.

Currently over 500 staff operate in the regional structure undertaking core work and delivery support work. Numbers in post vary from region to region depending on size and operational set up. The staff are predominantly Prison Service staff who were part of the former Service's Area Office Support Network. The regional offender managers offices were a newer organisation with smaller numbers of staff, comprising of a mixture of Prison Service and national probation service secondees.

The information on exact percentages would incur disproportionate costs to obtain this as all of the DOMs would need to be contacted and they would then need to go further afield in order to obtain this information.

During the design phase of the regional restructure, it was recognised that to operate effectively, it is imperative that the newly created regional teams reflect and utilise the skills, competencies and experience from all parts of the agency and existing fast-track arrangements across the Ministry of Justice. Secondees will continue to be sought into the regional structure from probation to maintain the benefits of probation expertise in the regional offices.

National Probation Service for England and Wales

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make an appointment to replace the post of Director of the National Probation Service. [283857]

Maria Eagle: Part of the restructuring of the National Offender Management Service is the appointment of 10 Directors of Offender Management (DOMs), one for each of the nine regions in England and one in Wales from 1 April this year (one is currently an interim appointment). The DOMs are from a wide range of backgrounds with extensive experience in all aspects of offender management.

The decision to devolve significant powers in offender management to a regional level has, inevitably, required a review of management functions at a national level. There are no longer distinct prisons and probation headquarters functions—the work is now performed by staff directly employed by the NOMS agency.

At the most senior level, these changes are exemplified by the creation of a new post with operational responsibility for both prisons and probation—the NOMS Chief Operating Officer. From 1 April this year, the Chief Operating Officer has taken responsibility for the previous functions of Prisons Director of Operations and Director of the National Probation Service. This post was filled following a full external competition supervised by the Civil Service Commissioner to ensure that the most suitable candidate was selected.

The post of Chief Operating Officer is much more than an amalgamation of senior posts in order to achieve efficiencies. The Chief Operating Officer's function is to ensure that the DOMs are delivering and to hold them accountable if they are not.

The DOMs will now undertake much of the work at a regional level that was previously conducted nationally by either the Director of the National Probation Service or the Director of Operations for the Prison Service.

As a result, there is no intention to reappoint another Director of the National Probation Service, just as there is no intention to reappoint another Director of Operations for the Prison Service.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit companies which have registered a trading loss from making donations to political parties. [284219]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no current plans to do so.

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and the Political Parties and Elections Bill which is before Parliament, require certain conditions to be satisfied in order for donors to be deemed permissible. Under the 2000 Act, for a company to be a permissible donor, it must be registered under the Companies Act 1985 or the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, incorporated within the United Kingdom or another member state in the European Union, and must carry on business in the United Kingdom. A company which makes a trading loss in a given year is capable of satisfying this condition. The Electoral Commission offers additional guidance for political parties in receipt of donations from companies. The guidance states that where parties are in any doubt about the status of a company offering a donation, they should seek to obtain a signed statement from the registered director of the company or the company secretary confirming that they are carrying on business. A full copy of the commission's guidance is available at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/electoral_commission_pdf_file/0018/13707/DonationsloansguidanceFinal_27536-17297_E_N_S_W_.pdf

The Political Parties and Elections Bill contains measures to strengthen the controls on political donations—including those from companies—by requiring all donations over £7,500 to be accompanied by a declaration as to the identity of the true donor.

Probation: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average ratio of offenders to Probation Service staff in the Essex probation area was in each of the last five years. [283514]

Maria Eagle: The ratio of offenders supervised by Essex probation area to Essex probation staff as at 31 March each year is as follows. The ratio between the number of offenders and offender management staff only is also provided:

	All staff : offenders	*Offender Management staff : offenders*
2005	1:11	—
2006	1:12	1:47
2007	1:14	1:50
2008	1:16	1:49
2009	1:15	1:49

The number of offenders includes some in custody who would be subject to probation supervision on release. Essex probation area restructured its staff grades in 2006 and introduced a split between offender managers and staff who undertook intervention work. Therefore it is not possible to provide the ratio between offender managers and offenders for 2005.

Probation: Finance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to announce the re-adjusted funding formula for the Probation Service; [277745]

(2) what the re-adjusted funding formula is for the distribution of probation area budgets. [277746]

Maria Eagle: The funding formula for the distribution of probation area budgets remains in place, and the 2009-10 budget allocation process was based primarily on the 2008-09 outturns calculated using this formula.

In 2009-10, the National Probation Service is required to make efficiency savings of £20 million gross in line with the wider Ministry of Justice efficiency programme. But taking account of a £17 million underspend in 2008-09 the net saving will be £3 million. Allocating these savings requirements according to the traditional funding formula would have had a disproportionate impact on some areas. A number of additional factors were therefore taken into account including convictions data, current and past financial performance, externally verified savings potential, and the need to avoid radical budget shifts in any one area.

Final decisions on how to allocate probation area budgets for 2010-11 and subsequent years will not be finalised until there is a definitive budget for the service as a whole for those years.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average caseload for a probation officer working in Wales was on 31 December *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2007. [283086]

Maria Eagle: The average case load for a probation officer working in Wales on 31 December 2007 was 28 cases.

Information on the average case load for 2001 and 1997 is not available for an all Wales perspective. Some of this information is no longer held, and would have been disposed of in accordance with the six-year retention limit specified by the Data Protection Act.

As follows is a table of the information that is available.

	1997	*2001*	*2007*
North Wales	—	25	39
South Wales	—	23	38
Dyfed-Powys	31	15	23
Gwent	—	—	27
Average	—	—	28

Young People: Remand in Custody

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many juveniles remanded in custody were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a non-custodial sentence in (i) a magistrates' court and (ii) the Crown Court in each year since 2003; [284299]

(2) what proportion of juveniles appearing before a court on *(a)* Monday to Friday and *(b)* Saturday were given a custodial remand in the most recent year for which figures are available. [284300]

Claire Ward: The information contained in the table shows the proportion of juveniles remanded in custody who were subsequently acquitted or given a custodial sentence at all courts, England and Wales 2003 to 2007. These data are from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Information on the proportion of juveniles appearing before court on a particular day, who were remanded into custody is not collected centrally.

Estimated proportion of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted or received a non-custodial sentence[3] at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2003-07

Percentage

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Magistrates courts					
Acquitted	34	31	28	26	24
Non-custodial	42	43	44	45	51
Crown court					
Acquitted	18	16	14	12	14
Non-custodial	26	21	21	18	18

[1] Defined as being aged 10-17 at the date of appearance in court.

[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and Crown courts who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[3] For magistrates courts, the proportions receiving a non-custodial sentence are presented as a percentage of those cases that were completed in a magistrates court and therefore exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the crown court. Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences, and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration. Acquitted includes proceeding discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

It is known that in some police force areas, information on remand decisions is not always readily available to those coding court proceedings returns. In certain cases, the return may be mistakenly coded as if no remand had taken place. For magistrates court proceedings, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. As the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases for a number of forces is not accurate for a number of forces, estimates have to be made to provide national figures. For this reason proportionate figures have been provided in the table.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Discrimination

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to include a prohibition on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the constitutions of Overseas Territories. [284634]

Chris Bryant: The Government take the protection of human rights very seriously. We ensure that all new constitutions contain a Bill of Rights that reflects, at a minimum, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This ensures that all groups, whether or not specifically mentioned in each Bill of Rights, have at least the same degree of protection under the relevant constitution as people in the UK have under the ECHR and Human Rights Act. Under these instruments discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation is prohibited.

In addition, we strongly encourage each Overseas Territory to agree to include a specific prohibition on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in their new constitutions. The outcome depends on the constitutional negotiation with each territory.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many recently amended constitutions of Overseas Territories do not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. [284635]

Chris Bryant: Since 2006, the Government have agreed new constitutions with five Overseas Territories and implemented them by Order in Council: the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands (not yet in force). Only the Falkland Islands' constitution specifically mentions sexual orientation as a ground on which discrimination is prohibited.

The new St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cuhna Constitution, which has been agreed and will be submitted to Her Majesty the Queen in the Privy Council on 8 July 2009, also specifically mentions sexual orientation as a ground on which discrimination is prohibited.

The Government take the protection of human rights very seriously. Even though there may not be specific provision within a constitution for non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, we do ensure that all constitutions contain a Bill of Rights that reflects at a minimum the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The effect is that all groups, whether or not specifically mentioned in the Bill of Rights have at least the same degree of protection under the constitution as people in the UK have under the ECHR and the Human Rights Act.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many constitutions of Overseas Territories which do not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation the Government has agreed to since 1997. [284636]

Chris Bryant: Six new Overseas Territory constitutions—the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, the Falklands Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha—have been agreed since 1997. In each case the constitution contains a Bill of Rights that reflects at a minimum the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This means that everyone in those territories has at least the same degree of protection under each constitution as people in the UK have under the ECHR and the Human Rights Act. It also means discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, as enshrined in the ECHR, is prohibited.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will hold discussions with the Colombian government on the situation of members of the Nukak tribe camped near San Jose; and if he will make a statement. [285342]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Bogotá regularly raises human rights issues with senior Colombian Government officials, and has been following the plight of members of the Nukak Maku tribe for some time. The embassy recently approved financial support to the National Indigenous Organisation of Colombia for activities related to the upcoming visit to Colombia of Mr. James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, who, among other issues, will be addressing the situation of the Nukak Maku tribe.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department of press office staff other than press officers has been in each year since 1997. [283073]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) annual salary cost of press office staff other than press officers was £429,648 in the 2008-09 financial year, £421,532 in 2007-08 and £410,677 in 2006-07. These staff work in areas such as updating the news section of the FCO website and other e-media; liaising with foreign journalists in the UK; photographing official ministerial meetings; and managing the logistics of FCO media events.

Figures previous to 2006-07 could not be split between press office staff and press officers.

These figures are calculated on an average salary cost basis which includes basic pay, national insurance, superannuation and the London location allowance.

EU Budget

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's *(a)* gross and *(b)* net contribution to the EU budget is in 2009. [282749]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's latest forecast of UK net contributions to the EC Budget in 2008-09 and 2009-10 were published in Table C9 (page 238) of the 2009 Budget (C 407). A more detailed breakdown of these contributions and an estimate of UK contributions in 2009 will be included in the 2009 European Community Finances White Paper which will be published shortly.

Gibraltar: Territorial Water

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Gibraltar on its application to the Court of First Instance in relation to the Spanish government's designation of Gibraltarian territorial waters under the EU Habitats Directive. [283615]

Chris Bryant: We are in close contact with the Government of Gibraltar and are aware of their application to the Court of First Instance, for the annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC to the extent that it lists Estrecho Oriental so as to include British Gibraltar territorial waters and an area of the high seas. This is a matter we take very seriously and we are examining Gibraltar's case in detail to determine what action we might take.

Gurkhas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an estimate of the number of retired Gurkhas working as private security contractors in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [284417]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of retired Gurkhas working as private security contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

161 former Gurkhas are working for a contractor providing security services at our Missions in Iraq. 299 are working for a contractor providing security services at our Missions in Afghanistan.

India

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will make representations to the Indian government on the effects of bauxite mining on the Adivasi population in India; and if he will make a statement. [284457]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU maintains a constructive dialogue with the Indian authorities about human rights and minority rights issues. Officials from our high commission have had an active part in these discussions. The Department for International Development (DFID) has discussed the general rights and entitlements of tribal groups with Government of Orissa officials under the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme part funded by DFID.

In light of the EU's ongoing dialogue, we have no plans to make representations on the effects of bauxite mining on the Adivasi population bilaterally with the Indian Government.

Israel: Imports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2126W, on imports: Israel, for what reasons the Government is not seeking a prohibition on the importation of goods from illegal Israeli settlements other than under the Preferential Trade Agreement. [284589]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believe that the best way forward is to seek ways to offer consumers better advice on whether goods have been produced in illegal Israeli settlements. The Cabinet Office recently hosted a small roundtable meeting with representatives from food retailers and trading organisations. They discussed the draft of new, voluntary guidance on origin labelling of produce from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently considering the next step of public consultation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 6 April 2009 on his constituent, Ms Daphne Green of Chelmsford; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [284782]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 386W. The reason for the delay in replying was the need to obtain legal advice for the response.

Middle East

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Israeli Government on the West Bank security barrier. [285072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to make clear to Israel that, while we recognise fully Israel's right to self-defence and agree that if it decides to build a barrier, it should be able to do that, the barrier must be built either on or behind the green line.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to the Government of Israel on the boarding of and removal of persons from a Free Gaza boat in international waters by Israeli forces; and if he will make a statement. [285104]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I can confirm the Israeli navy boarded the vessel "Spirit of Humanity" on 30 June 2009. The Israeli navy took control of the vessel and diverted it to Ashdod port in Israel, where all those on board, including six British nationals, were handed over to Israeli immigration officials. All six were deported and arrived in the UK on 6 July 2009.

When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009, he raised the issue with him and asked for clarification of whether the "Spirit of Humanity" had been intercepted in international waters.

Nepal: Internally Displaced Persons

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of Nepal on civilians who are missing following the conflict in that country in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [284013]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly raise our concerns about human rights abuses with the Government of Nepal, both bilaterally and with the EU, at both official and ministerial level. This includes the issue of enforced and involuntary disappearances.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised our concerns about the human rights situation, including the need to make progress on investigations into the disappeared, with the then Nepalese Foreign Minister, Upendra Yadav, on 4 March 2009 in the margins of the 10th Human Rights Council Ministerial in Geneva. Lord Malloch-Brown specifically raised the case of Maina Sunuwar, the handling of which will be emblematic of many conflict-era disappearances. The UK also ensured that Nepal was specifically mentioned in the EU statement in the plenary of the 10th Human Rights Council.

Lord Malloch-Brown raised our concerns about the disappeared with Nepalese Foreign Secretary Acharya during his visit to Nepal in July 2008. He also raised the importance of transitional justice mechanisms with the National Human Rights Commission.

In Kathmandu, the EU missions have voiced their concerns on the draft Disappearances Bill prepared by the Government of Nepal, through press statements and high-level meetings. EU ambassadors also raised, in detail, the question of dealing with disappearances and the proposed Disappearances Commission with the Prime Minister and leaders of the four largest parties, in a series of discussions in January and February 2009.

Our embassy in Kathmandu has played an active part in the production of a local strategy to tackle impunity, of which addressing disappearances is a central theme. The embassy also financially supports victims groups, such as those in Bardiya District, in filing cases and advocating for justice.

We will continue to engage with the Government of Nepal to urge it to meet the commitments it has made to uphold and promote human rights, and to address past abuses.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Nepalese authorities in the last 12 months on those still missing following the country's armed conflict; and if he will make a statement. [285345]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly raise our concerns about human rights abuses with the Government of Nepal, both bilaterally and with the EU, at both official and ministerial level. This includes the issue of enforced and involuntary disappearances.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised our concerns about the human rights situation, including the need to make progress on investigations into the disappeared, with the then Nepalese Foreign Minister, Upendra Yadav, on 4 March 2009 in the margins of the 10th Human Rights Council Ministerial in Geneva. Lord Malloch-Brown specifically raised the case of Maina Sunuwar, the handling of which will be emblematic of many conflict-era disappearances. The UK also ensured that Nepal was specifically mentioned in the EU statement in the plenary of the 10th Human Rights Council.

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We will continue to engage with the Government of Nepal to urge it to meet the commitments it has made to uphold and promote human rights, and to address past abuses.

Orissa

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects a second EU delegation to visit Orissa. [284451]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An EU delegation, which included a representative from our high commission in New Delhi, visited Orissa between 9-12 December 2008 to assess the latest situation. A second visit was planned for spring 2009, but was then postponed. We have not yet been informed of the new dates.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Indian government on the protection of Christians called as witnesses in trials relating to the recent violence in Orissa. [284452]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not discussed the protection of Christians called as witnesses in trials relating to the recent violence in Orissa with the Indian Government. The EU maintains a constructive dialogue with the Indian authorities about human rights and minority rights issues, which includes the situation in Orissa and its neighbouring states following the violence in 2008. Officials from our high commission have had an active part in these discussions.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the UN's role in Orissa since the publication of the UN's recent report on Orissa; and if he will make a statement. [284575]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of a report issued by the UN Special Rapporteur for freedom of religion or belief following a UN mission to India in 2008. However, we have not been involved in discussions with international partners about the UN's role in Orissa, beyond noting the conclusions and recommendations contained in that report. The UK already works multilaterally through the ongoing EU dialogue with the Indian authorities on minority rights, which includes the situation in Orissa.

Pakistan

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the government of Pakistan develop a counter-insurgency strategy for *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas. [284182]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I last discussed the security situation in Pakistan and the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with President Zardari on 11 May 2009. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials based at our high commission in Islamabad also continue to hold frequent discussions with a wide range of Pakistani Ministers, politicians and officials. We continue to encourage Pakistan to ensure that military gains in the border areas are underpinned by a comprehensive strategy that brings lasting security through reconstruction, development and improved governance. We have shared expertise and best practice with the Government of Pakistan, and as part of our wider programme of defence engagement we have helped to build the capacity of the Pakistani security services to conduct effective operations.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the government of Pakistan in seeking alternatives to militant control in the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan. [284183]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the security situation in Pakistan and the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with President Zardari on 11 May 2009. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials based at our high commission in Islamabad also continue to hold frequent discussions with a wide range of Pakistani Ministers, politicians and officials. We are pressing the Government of Pakistan to design and implement a long-term comprehensive strategy for improving governance, justice and services in the FATA. We continue to support Pakistan's efforts to reform the judicial system, build effective policing services and address the drivers of radicalisation. The Department for International Development's programme of £665 million over the next four years will include programmes focussed on the border areas, and will help to addressing the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity. During the EU-Pakistan summit on 17 June 2009, we and our EU partners made a commitment to enhance our support of Pakistan's efforts to counter violent extremism. We will encourage the EU Commission to deliver its commitments to build police capacity, help counter radicalisation and to promote judicial reform.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he made to the government of Pakistan on the reported murder of five women in Baluchistan province in July 2008. [284796]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK, together with our EU partners, condemned the murder of five women in Baluchistan in July 2008, and called on the Government of Pakistan to bring those responsible to justice. We welcomed the resolution adopted by Pakistan's Senate for strong action to be taken against the perpetrators.

Through both multilateral and bilateral representation, we continue to encourage the Government of Pakistan to promote and protect women's rights in accordance with international standards such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women which Pakistan has signed. The UK delegation to the UN Human Rights Council also raised this during the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan's human rights record in May 2008.

Through our high commission in Islamabad we support projects which promote women's rights and help obtain better access to justice, for example by supporting community-based lawyer-activists who represent women in cases of forced marriage, domestic violence and other crimes; encouraging the creation of a lawyers' network of human rights advocates with prominent women advocates; improving investigative journalism in Pakistan to encourage impartial reporting on political, electoral and human rights issues; and raising awareness and teaching of human rights, including women's rights, in schools.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds the Government has made available to *(a)* the government of Pakistan and *(b)* others to help combat extremism and militant control in the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan in the last two years; on what initiatives such funds have been spent; and if he will make a statement. [284184]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of our CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy, we continue to help build Pakistani capacity to tackle violent extremism. We have a £10 million programme of counter-terrorism support, which helps build the capacity of Pakistani law enforcement agencies and also helps to address some of the drivers of radicalisation. Through our bilateral programmes and conflict prevention funding we are also working to support Pakistan's efforts to bring long-term peace and security to the border areas, including through capacity-building support to the North West Frontier Province police. As part of our wider programme of defence engagement we have helped to build the capacity of the Pakistani security services to conduct effective operations. More broadly, the Department for International Development is providing £665 million over the next four years, which will be key to addressing the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity.

Russia: Georgia

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Russian government on its decision to veto the renewal of the UN observer mission in Georgia. [283920]

Chris Bryant: We deeply regret Russia's decision to veto the renewal of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia. We and our partners worked hard to come up with a compromise text that was acceptable to all, including Russia. Since Russia's veto, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, making clear the UK's disappointment, our demand that Russia complies with the 12 August 2008 and 8 September 2008 peace agreements, and encouraging Russia to participate constructively in the Geneva process. We also continue to urge EU partners to raise these concerns with Russia.

South Ossetia: Abkhazia

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on monitoring the security situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. [284268]

Chris Bryant: We discuss Georgia frequently with our EU partners. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed international monitoring with his EU counterparts at the June European Council. My noble Friend the Minister for Europe, Baroness Kinnock, went on patrol with the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) on 24 June 2009.

The closure of the UN and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe missions in Georgia makes monitoring of the security and humanitarian situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia more difficult. Our EU partners have agreed with the UK that the extension of the mandate of the EUMM is even more important in these changed circumstances. We continue to lobby Russia to use its influence to help EUMM gain access to the separatist regions.

Taking Chess to the Townships Project

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the Taking Chess to the Townships project; if he will meet representatives of the organisers of the project and other stakeholders to discuss the project's future; and if he will make a statement. [284129]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations on the Taking Chess to the Townships project.

USA: Africa

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US administration on its policy priorities for Africa. [284792]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses African issues on a regular basis with his US counterpart, including most recently during his visit to Washington on 11-12 May 2009. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown met with senior US officials in Washington on 22 June 2009, and again at the African Union summit in Libya on 30 June-1 July 2009.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also have regular dialogue with the US Administration on Africa, including at a senior level. These discussions have ranged across priority countries and issues, including on promoting human security and functioning government in Somalia, reform in Zimbabwe, action in Kenya to address issues underlying the violence following the 2007 elections, support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, relations with Nigeria, and tackling drug trafficking in West Africa.

Uzbekistan

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department made to the recent UK-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue in relation to religious minorities in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [284014]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador in Tashkent makes a significant contribution to regular reporting by EU Heads of Mission on human rights in Uzbekistan. These reports, including in respect of religious freedom and supported as necessary through interventions by the UK Representation in Brussels, play a key role in driving the agenda for the annual EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue. Our embassy worked closely with the

Czech presidency in Tashkent in the run-up to the most recent dialogue, which took place on 9 June 2009. Our aim is to continue to draw attention to our concerns on religious freedom and other human rights issues in constructive contacts with the Uzbek authorities.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments NHS hospitals provide for patients who have consumed excessive amounts of alcohol. [283930]

Gillian Merron: There are a wide range of diseases and health problems associated with both short-term and long-term excessive consumption of alcohol, which can range from injuries sustained from accidents while under the influence of alcohol, which may be treated by accident and emergency departments, through to alcohol-related liver failure and diseases such as hypertension and certain types of cancer, for which alcohol consumption may be a cause.

It is, therefore, not possible to provide an exhaustive list of the treatments that national health service hospitals provide for patients with diseases caused by consuming excessive amounts of alcohol.

In relation to treatments for alcohol dependence:

in 2006, the Department commissioned the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse to review the published international research literature on alcohol interventions and treatment. The "Review of the effectiveness of treatment for alcohol problems", was published in November 2006 and describes a wide range of treatments and interventions.

the Department and the National treatment Agency for Substance Misuse jointly published, in June 2006, best practice guidance to aid commissioners and providers in delivering effective interventions and treatment, "Models of care for alcohol misusers (MoCAM)".

A copy of both documents has been placed in the Library and are also available on the National Treatment Agency website

www.nta.nhs.uk

Ambulances

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* ambulances and *(b)* rapid response vehicles per head of population there are in each ambulance trust. [285078]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally. The purchasing of ambulance vehicles is a matter for national health service ambulance trusts to manage in order to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

Dental Health: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average number of teeth a child aged five years had which *(a)* were actively decayed, *(b)* were filled and *(c)* had extracted in each of the last five years. [284768]

Ann Keen: The information available centrally is from national health service dental health surveys of five-year-old children which are normally conducted every other year under the auspices of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry. The data in the following table relate to decayed, missing (not necessarily extracted) and filled (at point of examination) teeth.

Five year old children

	Average decayed teeth	*Average missing teeth*	*Average filled teeth*
2005-06	1.10	0.20	0.16
2003-04	1.12	0.20	0.18
2001-02	1.09	0.19	0.19

The results of the survey conducted in 2007-08 will be published shortly.

Dental Services

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting for orthodontic treatment in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [284638]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so, or they choose to wait longer.

The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care. Referral to treatment (RTT) data collection monitors the length of time from referral through to treatment and is used to measure performance against the 18 weeks operational standard.

Information is collected on the total number of incomplete RTT pathways, for oral surgery, which includes orthodontic treatment. This data looks at patients who have entered a RTT pathway but whose treatment had not yet started. Data is available from August 2007. The following table shows data for South Tyneside primary care trust (PCT), North East strategic health authority (SHA) and England:

Oral surgery, total number of incomplete RTT pathways

	South Tyneside PCT	*North East SHA*	*England*
August 2007	329	3,011	152,302
April 2008	244	3,850	121,032
April 2009	423	3,431	111,188

Note:
RTT data are only available from 2007 onwards.
Source:
Department of Health 18 weeks RTT data.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average combined waiting time for initial orthodontic assessment and subsequent treatment was in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [284640]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

From 1 January 2009, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner or dentist to the start of their consultant-led treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so, or they choose to wait longer.

The 18 weeks commitment covers pathways that involve or might involve consultant-led care. Referral to treatment (RTT) data collection monitors the length of time from referral through to treatment and is used to measure performance against the 18 weeks operational standard.

Information is collected on the median RTT waiting times for oral surgery, which includes orthodontic treatment. Data for admired pathways is available from April 2007, and data for non-admitted pathways is available form August 2007.

The following table shows data for South Tyneside primary care trust (PCT), North East strategic health authority (SHA) and England

Oral Surgery - RTT waiting times (weeks)

	South Tyneside PCT	North East SHA	England
Admitted pathways			
April 2007	24.0	25.7	22.0
April 2008	10.0	11.7	11.1
April 2009	9.5	9.8	10.5
Non-admitted pathways			
August 2007	10.0	9.6	8.3
April 2008	5.7	6.0	5.3
April 2009	6.2	8.3	5.9

Notes:

1 The median waiting time reflects the amount of time that the 'middle' patient treated has waited.

2 RTT data is only available from 2007 onwards.

Source:

Department of Health 18 weeks RTT data

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many orthodontic treatments were provided by dentists and orthodontists for *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [284641]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

However, the NHS Information Centre intends to publish information relating to units of orthodontic activity for 2008-09 in the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09 report, expected to be published in August 2009. This will be provided by strategic health authority area in England.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 232 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, what the job titles are of those staff members who earn more than £150,000 per annum. [283883]

Phil Hope: The job titles of the staff members who earn more than £150,000 per annum are presented as follows:

	Number
Permanent secretaries	3
Directors general	6
Director	1
Doctors employed by the Department on national health service pay terms	7

Earnings referred to above include salary and pay-related allowances but not non-consolidated performance pay (bonuses).

Departmental Official Engagements

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from how many public engagements each Minister in his Department has withdrawn after accepting an invitation to attend in the last 12 months. [284987]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what terms and conditions are set by his Department in relation to the provision of funding from his Department's budget to *(a)* charities, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* social enterprises. [284211]

Phil Hope: The standard terms and conditions of grants awarded to third sector organisations through the Third Sector Programme, the Social Enterprise Investment Fund and Opportunities for Volunteering scheme have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* staff in his Department and *(b)* NHS staff are on long-term sickness absence; and how many such staff are on long-term sickness absence for mental health reasons. [283935]

Phil Hope: In the Department itself, as of 30 June 2009, 23 people were on long-term sick leave (defined as being more than 28 days continuous sick leave). Of those long-term sickness absences, five were for reasons of mental health.

Centrally available data on national health service staff does not provide the information requested.

Epilepsy: Medical Treatments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with epilepsy patient groups on the generic substitution of branded anti-epileptic drugs. [284649]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A number of patient representative groups, such as those representing epilepsy sufferers, have written to the Department expressing their concerns on the implementation of generic substitution. We have not yet met with any such groups but we want to make sure we engage with all stakeholders in the best way possible and are currently considering how best to do so.

Patient safety will be paramount in taking forward the work on generic substitution. It has long been the Department's policy to encourage generic prescribing where possible, for reasons of good professional practice and because of the opportunities for more effective use of national health service resources. However, we have always recognised that there are circumstances in which it may be clinically appropriate to prescribe a particular brand of drug even where a generic is available if the prescriber considers it essential for the patient to receive that specific product. This position will need to be maintained under any new specific proposals made as part of the work on generic substitution.

Health Services: Hygiene

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is considering, other than hand sanitation, to reduce the incidence of healthcare-associated infections. [284587]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W.

Health Services: Volunteers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce policy decisions following his Department's consultation on supporting volunteering in health and social care. [284428]

Phil Hope: A response document to 'Towards a strategy to support volunteering in Health and Social Care: consultation', will be published in the next few weeks.

Hospitals: Smoking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the implementation of the ban on smoking in public places in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric wards of hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [284877]

Phil Hope: The smoking ban in mental health in-patient settings came into force on 1 July 2008. We believe that many mental health trusts have implemented the ban with little or no difficulty. These inpatient settings are being transformed for the better and going smoke free is part of this. Mental health staff and patients deserve the same healthier, smoke free environment as the rest of the national health service.

We will continue to encourage mental health trusts to maintain smoke free environments in in-patient settings.

Influenza: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of Relenza the NHS holds; and when he expects the antiviral stockpile to be complete. [283870]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom stockpile of Relenza is complete and amounts to 10.5 million treatment courses. Approximately 300,000 treatment courses have been distributed to the national health service in England.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects sufficient stockpiles of Tamiflu to be in place to be able to treat 80 per cent. of the population. [284200]

Gillian Merron: The delivery profile as indicated by the manufacturer should lead to us completing the stockpile in October 2009.

Kidneys: Health Education

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what health education programmes his Department has initiated in the last 12 months to raise the level of public awareness of chronic kidney disease; and what further such programmes are planned in the next 12 months. [284485]

Ann Keen: Awareness of the risk of chronic kidney disease is being raised as part of the NHS Health Checks programme and we are also developing a patient information leaflet on identifying unhealthy kidneys, which could lead to earlier identification of chronic kidney disease. This information will be made widely available.

There is also information on "knowing the symptoms of kidney disease" including a self-assessment tool on the NHS Choices website which can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/Tools/Pages/Kidneydisease.aspx

Local Involvement Networks: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has evaluated the *(a)* selection criteria for, *(b)* level of expertise of and *(c)* relevant interests of the Local Involvement Networks executive board in Stoke-on-Trent; what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the resources available to the board to carry out its functions; and if he will make a statement. [284967]

Ann Keen: No evaluation or assessment has been made of the Stoke-on-Trent Local Involvement Network (LINk) executive board, or the adequacy of resources available. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 put a duty on local authorities with social services responsibilities to establish LINks in their area from 1 April 2008. LINks are independent and have the power to develop their own priorities, agendas and governance arrangements. The Stoke-on-Trent LINk management board is elected by the members of the LINk. The Department has issued a range of guidance to support LINks, their hosts, and local authorities in this new role and provides the funding for LINks (currently £84 million for 2008-09 to 2010-11), the vast majority of which goes directly to local authorities. The level of the local authority contribution to the LINk is a matter for individual councils. As part of its annual reporting to the Secretary of State, an individual LINk is asked to declare the amount of funding made available to it in order that it might carry out its duties. The Department has not yet received the annual report from Stoke-on-Trent LINk.

Medical Treatments: Pain

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors his Department has identified as increasing the likelihood of patients in intensive care not receiving treatment for pain; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such patients with untreated pain. [284585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is the responsibility of all national health service trusts and independent sector hospitals that provide intensive care services to ensure, through their clinical governance arrangements, that the pain that may be experienced by critically ill patients is managed appropriately, effectively and sensitively.

Consistent with their professional discipline and grade, all clinicians working in intensive care locations are expected, to be trained and competent in the delivery of strategies to minimize the incidence of pain. All critical care services should be led by doctors with specialist training in intensive care medicine and it is recommended that all medical consultants in intensive care medicine should possess the relevant competencies recommended by the Royal Colleges and the Intensive Care Society. These include the management of pain and pain relieving strategies.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients in intensive care units reported experiencing untreated pain during a hospital stay in each of the last five years. [284586]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what savings have been recorded by each primary care trust in England as a result of the national re-organisation in 2006; and how those savings have been achieved. [283648]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is provided in the following table.

The figures represent the total annualised value of savings achieved by primary care trusts (PCTs) during the two year period 2006-07 and 2007-08 in relation to the Commissioning a Patient-led NHS (CPLNHS) programme.

In addition to the £198 million savings achieved by PCTs, strategic health authorities (SHAs) achieved total savings of £58 million over the same two year period, giving total recurrent savings of £257 million. This exceeded the NHS' target of achieving £250 million in recurrent savings by the end of the two-year programme.

Total annualised savings 2006-07 and 2007-08

Name	*£000*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,304
Barking and Dagenham PCT	760
Barnet PCT	1,205
Barnsley PCT	602
Bassetlaw PCT	266
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0
Bedfordshire PCT	0
Berkshire East PCT	1,551
Berkshire West PCT	1,633
Bexley NHS Care trust PCT	848
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,518
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	0
Blackpool PCT	0
Bolton PCT	1,033
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	942
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	1,959
Brent Teaching PCT	1,372
Brighton and Hove City PCT	949
Bristol PCT	425
Bromley PCT	1,174
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,200
Bury PCT	651
Calderdale PCT	100
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,737
Camden PCT	1,004
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	2,000
Central Lancashire PCT	3,535
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1,200
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,220
County Durham PCT	1,780
Coventry Teaching PCT	820
Croydon PCT	1,351
Cumbria PCT	1,869
Darlington PCT	320
Derby City PCT	1,053
Derbyshire County PCT	1,711
Devon PCT	3,010
Doncaster PCT	1,315
Dorset PCT	1,356
Dudley PCT	1,016
Ealing PCT	1,410
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	540
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1,292
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	515
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	3,600
Enfield PCT0	1,191
Gateshead PCT	902
Gloucestershire PCT	750
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,433
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,141
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1,846
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	810
Hampshire PCT	6,797
Haringey Teaching PCT	991
Harrow PCT	780
Hartlepool PCT	366
Hastings and Rother PCT	[illegible]59
Havering PCT	1,000
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,165
Herefordshire PCT	225
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,217
Hillingdon PCT	18,525

Total annualised savings 2006-07 and 2007-08

Name	*£000*
Hounslow PCT	974
Hull Teaching PCT	1,878
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	382
Islington PCT	910
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	791
Kingston PCT	600
Kirklees PCT	1,444
Knowsley PCT	384
Lambeth PCT	1,424
Leeds PCT	3,398
Leicester City PCT	1,150
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	2,557
Lewisham PCT	1,200
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	2,399
Liverpool PCT	2,569
Luton PCT	0
Manchester PCT	3,445
Medway PCT	332
Mid Essex PCT	814
Middlesbrough PCT	588
Milton Keynes PCT	0
Newcastle PCT	1,190
Newham PCT	1,305
Norfolk PCT	2,200
North East Essex PCT	346
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus PCT	600
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,339
North Lincolnshire PCT	407
North Somerset PCT	0
North Staffordshire PCT	777
North Tees PCT	645
North Tyneside PCT	860
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2,772
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	2,121
Northumberland Care PCT	1,250
Nottingham City PCT	510
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	3,321
Oldham PCT	259
Oxfordshire PCT	2,400
Peterborough PCT	344
Plymouth Teaching PCT	465
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0
Redbridge PCT	883
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	502
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	608
Rotherham PCT	730
Salford PCT	827
Sandwell PCT	1,183
Sefton PCT	1,703
Sheffield PCT	3,017
Shropshire County PCT	862
Solihull NHS Care Trust PCT	700
Somerset PCT	1,899
South Birmingham PCT	1,207
South East Essex PCT	1,293
South Gloucestershire PCT	373
South Staffordshire PCT	1,610
South Tyneside PCT	713
South West Essex PCT	1,000
Southampton City PCT	240
Southwark PCT	1,420
Stockport PCT	753
Stoke-on-Trent PCT	982
Suffolk PCT	2,000
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,285
Surrey PCT	5,256
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,368
Swindon PCT	327
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,037
Telford and Wrekin PCT	514
Torbay Care PCT	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,123
Trafford PCT	941
Wakefield District PCT	449
Walsall Teaching PCT	954
Waltham Forest PCT	900
Wandsworth PCT	758
Warrington PCT	461
Warwickshire PCT	2,000
West Essex PCT	4
West Hertfordshire PCT	0
West Kent PCT	2,332
West Sussex PCT	3,322
Western Cheshire PCT	751
Westminster PCT	920
Wiltshire PCT	1,501
Wirral PCT	1,000
Wolverhampton City PCT	920
Worcestershire PCT	2,136
Total	198,158

Source:
2007-08 audited summarisation schedules.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times an NHS organisation has assessed itself as compliant with a core standard but been found by the Care Quality Commission to be non-compliant in the last three years; and which *(a)* NHS organisation and *(b)* core standard was concerned in each such instance. [284195]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the last three years of assessment the Healthcare Commission adjusted 369 declarations for individual core standards; 0.6 per cent. of the total submitted. A table showing declarations adjusted has been placed in the Library.

Queen Mary's Sidcup Hospital NHS Trust: Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the closure of the Accident and Emergency Department at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. [284849]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The South London Healthcare NHS Trust is responsible for this issue and have indicated to us that they will publish the implementation plans for A Picture of Health by the end of July. These plans will include a timetable for the service changes that will take place at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, including the phased closure of Accident and Emergency, and the development of an Urgent Care Centre.

Sick Leave: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from injury at work was amongst those social service employees for which his Department is responsible in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [284560]

Phil Hope: Information on absence rates among social service staff is not held centrally by the Department.

It is the responsibility of local employers to collect information on absence rates among their employees.

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many courses of antivirals have been dispensed for the treatment of swine flu; and how many of these have been given to *(a)* patients with swine flu and *(b)* contacts of patients with swine influenza as prophylaxis. [284197]

Gillian Merron: As at 2 July 2009, data from the Health Protection Agency's fluzone database showed that:

the number of antivirals dispensed to patients with swine flu influenza was 6,138; and

the number of antivirals dispensed to contacts of patients with swine influenza as prophylaxis was 10,363.

Treatment Centres: Hygiene

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects all NHS and independent sector treatment centres to be compliant with the provisions of the EU Directive on Medical Devices in relation to the sterilisation of surgical instruments. [284430]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Both national health service and independent sector treatment centres are required to comply with the provisions of the EU Medical Devices Directive. This compliance is monitored by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who expect both sectors to have in place action plans where their self-assessments or declarations conclude that there is not full compliance. The CQC will follow up instances where non-compliance is declared or where the CQC has information that there may not be full compliance with standards.

Treatment Centres: Regulation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* NHS and *(b)* independent sector treatment centre sterile service departments have been assessed by a notified body under Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency as compliant with the EU Directive on Medical Devices, EU 93/42. [284571]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on conformity assessments undertaken by UK Notified bodies to the requirements of the EC Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC is not kept centrally by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Waiting Lists: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average inpatient waiting time for treatment on the NHS was in each primary care trust area in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last 10 years. [284450]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following data shows the average (median) waiting time for elective admissions for primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire since 2003 which is the earliest data available.

Table 2 shows data for the newly-formed West Hertfordshire PCT.

Table 1: Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission, time periods 2003-06 (commissioner based)

Weeks

	Month ending March each year			
Organisations	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hertsmere PCT	13.1	11.9	10.7	8.2
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	14.8	10.6	9.8	7.7
Dacorum PCT	12.8	11.0	11.1	8.6
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	13.0	11.2	10.2	8.0

Notes:

1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
4. Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers, Dacorum and St. Albans PCTs were combined to form West Hertfordshire PCT.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:

Department of Health Waiting List Collections Quarterly Commissioner return and Monthly Monitoring Commissioner (MMRCOM)

Table 2: Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission, time periods 2007-09 (commissioner based)

Weeks

		Month ending March each year		
Current strategic health authority area	*Organisations*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
East of England	West Hertfordshire PCT	7.5	5.6	4.5

Notes:

1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:

Department of Health Waiting List Collections Quarterly Commissioner return and MMRCOM.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received from businesses on the application of business rates to ports in the last 12 months; and what responses have been made to such representations. [284271]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government has received correspondence from around 40 business contacts, and from 18 MPs, concerning the issues arising from the rating review of ports.

The Government have responded in writing to all those making representations, and in a number of parliamentary debates this year. In these responses, the Government have made it clear we have introduced legislation enabling all businesses (not just those in ports) facing backdated rates bills of 34 months or more, which meet certain criteria, to enter a schedule of payments to permit payment over up to eight years.

Space Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the British National Space Centre commissioned a report from Moreton Hall Associates and JRA Technology Ltd into the space licensing regime; what the cost of commissioning the report was; when the report was finalised; what its main findings and recommendations were; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [283209]

Mr. Lammy: The Moreton Hall report was commissioned in February 2005 and presented to the British National Space Centre in June 2005. The cost of the report was £26,100. The report is classified as 'Commercial-in-confidence' and there are no plans to put it in the public domain.

The list of recommendations from the report is as follows:

> A system for licensing should be retained.
>
> BNSC should act to establish precise responsibility for sub-orbital manned flight with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and, if necessary, introduce changes to the licensing process and procedures to suit.
>
> The different classes of satellites and missions should be recognised and addressed in different licence application procedures and fees as detailed in this report.
>
> Overseas Territories/Crown Dependencies should be permitted to issue their own licences provided that clauses are inserted to ensure that ascent phase third party liability insurance provides cover to UK Government and that the territory indemnifies the UK Government.
>
> Protocols should be established for each of the territories, with respect to division of responsibility BNSC/Territories for licence application support and licence issue, and guidance notes should be produced for staff.
>
> In-orbit third party liability insurance should be no longer routinely required. However, BNSC may wish to consider insisting upon TPL insurance if the space object is designed/planned to re-enter. The omission of in-orbit TPL should be kept under review because of the presence of man-made orbit debris that could, in future, be identified.
>
> With regard to post-separation-pre-orbit phase third party liability, this should be retained, and if possible, be covered by an extension of launch vehicle TPL insurance.
>
> Research and educational satellites are now exempt from all third party liability indemnities and insurance requirements, and this practice should continue. The UK Government must be fully aware that they have unlimited liability for third party damages which may be incurred by these satellites.
>
> BNSC should propose the establishment of protocols for proportional sharing of liability where more than one state is classified as Launching State within the meaning of the UN treaties/conventions.
>
> Consideration should be given to establishing a simple bilateral recognition of other nations' safety evaluations and licensing procedures.
>
> Consideration should be given on taking an active part (i.e. even leadership role) in the EU/ESA licence harmonisation process.
>
> With respect to the Human Rights Act, no changes to the existing or herein proposed licence procedures are recommended; however, it should be clearly understood that if the SoS wishes to refuse a licence, there must be strong grounds for so doing, such as national security/threatened safety of persons, not in public interest (if strong enough).
>
> BNSC should take the lead in establishing clear protocols for resolving quickly any disagreements as to responsibilities between Government Departments in respect of space activities.
>
> The division of responsibility vis-à-vis BNSC/Ofcom for Radio Frequency aspects of satellite missions is well-established and no further action is required.
>
> De-orbiting strategies should be required and included in the licence terms. Further, ensure that they are compatible with the emerging International Office for Standardisation (ISO) standards.
>
> Earth Observing mission licences should include a requirement on licensees to comply with 1986 Principles relating to Remote Sensing of Earth.
>
> In the secondary register, where ownership has changed, it should be recorded that change of liability has similarly been transferred (if it has) and to which state.
>
> To ensure the proper notification of orbit changes to the UN, some form of regular monitoring of licensee's activities must be established.
>
> BNSC should ratify, and fully implement, a revised auditable licensing process, addressing through-life monitoring, as identified in this report.
>
> The process, supporting procedures and forms, should be documented and disseminated in the form of updated notes for the guidance of staff and applicants (two sets).
>
> Procedures, methodologies and associated acceptance criteria for the safety evaluation should be defined in more detail as outlined in this report.
>
> The safety evaluation contractor should be given the added responsibility of development and maintenance of a database of acceptance criteria and relevant best practice and international standards.
>
> The responsibility for the debris-collision risk assessment at time of application may be transferred to the applicants either to undertake themselves, or via a service company.
>
> Debris-collision risk assessment should be undertaken as part of the through-life monitoring function/responsibility, and these may be delegated to the operator (by wider dissemination of the debris-collision risk assessment model). In addition, measures should be implemented to ensure the debris data content of the debris-collision risk assessment tool be maintained as current.
>
> Applicants who have supplied comprehensive insurance briefing packages should make BNSC aware of the detailed table of contents as soon as possible, as the information therein may well provide adequate responses to the safety evaluation questions.

> BNSC should give considerations to the revision of the fee structure as indicated in this report.
>
> BNSC should give consideration to delegation of responsibility for elements of the licence application process as indicated in this report. In particular, a new role of Safety Licence Support Contractor should be considered, and, if agreed, may be competed for by appropriately qualified organisations.
>
> The role of safety evaluation and maintenance of safety standards may be competed for by appropriately qualified organisations.
>
> The BNSC website should be revised to provide enhanced guidance to applicants and links to relevant documents and standards as outlined in this report.

Changes should also be made to the licence application form on the site as detailed in this report.

TREASURY

Andrew Hudson

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what remuneration package Mr Andrew Hudson will receive in his capacity as his Department's Managing Director (Public Services and Growth Directorate). [284925]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Government Departments report annually on the remuneration of senior managers in their Resource Accounts.

Andrew Hudson was appointed as a senior manager at HM Treasury on 30 March 2009. Details of his remuneration will be included in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2008-09 and future years.

Departmental Correspondence

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280461]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report,* columns 80-86WS.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information databases his Department *(a)* maintains and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284385]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284901]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the then Exchequer Secretary to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 349W. There are a number of databases maintained by the Department and its agencies that contain personal data, most of them related to staff. Those that are managed by the Treasury and its agencies and contain personal information on members of the public are Financial Sanctions (operational since October 2007), Gilts Register (December 2004) and DMO Job Applicants (2004).

Fuels

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many litres of illegal fuel have been seized by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [284647]

Mr. Timms: Figures for fuel seizures are published in HMRC Autumn Performance Reports, available on the HMRC website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account the Valuation Office Agency takes of the effect of flooding of the market in assessing the value of a property for the purposes of inheritance tax. [284080]

Mr. Timms: The value of a property for inheritance purposes is the price that it might reasonably be expected to fetch if sold on the open market, which will fully reflect the state of the market at that particular time.

However section 160 of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984 contains specific provisions to ensure that the value of property within a large estate is not reduced on account of all the property being placed on the market at the same time.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Valuation Office Agency forms VO6403 have been *(a)* sent out and *(b)* returned as part of the 2010 business rates revaluation. [283839]

Mr. Timms: Form VO6403 is an internal form used to record information when inspecting licensed property. It is not sent out to ratepayers. A full list of forms used to request information from ratepayers is published on the Valuation Office Agency website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/business_rates/List-of-Forms-Requesting-Information.htm

Students: Loans

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money HM Revenue and Customs has deducted from individuals' salaries on behalf of the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years. [284611]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) collect Student Loan repayments for Income Contingent Loans via PAYE and Self-Assessment (SA) on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The amount of Student Loan repayments reported to the Student Loans Company in each of the previous three years are:

Student loan repayments processed by tax year

	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
PAYE	266,422,888	382,664,259	584,031,106
SA	12,570,060	16,783,566	30,947,313
Total	278,992,948	399,447,825	614,978,419

These amounts include some deductions for previous years which have been reported in the tax years above. In certain circumstances, the amounts due to HMRC are received after they have been reported. These repayments are included in the table.

The amount of Student Loan repayments is increasing over time due to the increase in the number of graduates who have taken up Income Contingent Loans and have entered employment.

Taxation: Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what key performance indicators the Valuation Office Agency has in relation to improving the cost-yield ratio for capital gains tax. [284922]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency does not have a key performance indicator to improve the cost-yield ratio for capital gains tax but one of its targets is to improve value for money on capital gains tax work for HMRC by 5 per cent. This is measured by comparing the Agency's costs with the estimated tax achieved.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Valuation Office Agency is taking to increase the cost-yield ratio from inheritance tax. [284924]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency considers valuations submitted by taxpayers for inheritance tax purposes in accordance with long standing legislative rules and procedures. The Agency is reducing the cost of the resources that it uses on these cases, as measured by the cost yield ratio. The aim is to spend less time on those valuations that do not require any adjustment and to focus on those that do, so that the amount of tax properly due is paid.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on Valuation Office Agency, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the project board overseeing the installation of a geographic information system. [284764]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 210W.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information technology contracts were entered into by the Valuation Office Agency or its representatives on its behalf between May 2001 and May 2006. [284766]

Mr. Timms: The primary ICT contracts for the VOA are via the HMRC Aspire and Sprint contracts effective from July 2004 and October 2005 respectively; the majority of 3rd party procurement is through these existing contract frameworks. In the preceding years, the primary ICT contracts were via the HMRC Eagle and eIROS contract frameworks.

A small system contract has been entered into separately:

Development and maintenance of time recording and case management system (TRACS software (including Panasonic data (barcode) scanners)) with TMS.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 542W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, for what purposes the Valuation Office Agency's Sprint contract was entered into; and what the terms are of that contract. [284767]

Mr. Timms: Sprint is a framework agreement contract awarded in 2005 by HMRC to Specialist Computer Centres plc. (SCC) and Dataserv CES Ltd. for the supply of information technology, telecommunications and audio visual and related supplies and services. The agency is a participating authority to that contract.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information System

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the scale is of the mapping data that will be held in the Valuation Office Agency's new geographical information system. [284919]

Mr. Timms: The geographical information system will use the Ordnance Survey standard MasterMap topography product.

For cartographic representation, the scale of the mapping data within the geographical information system will range from 1:1250 to 1:250,000.

Valuation: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology is used by the Valuation Office Agency to allocate a TQ value significant code to a dwelling; and whether a maximum level of traffic has been set for the allocation of that code. [284763]

Mr. Timms: The value significant code TQ may be used where a property is located in a particularly quiet road, to the extent that this will affect the value of the property. There is no maximum level of traffic set for the allocation of this code—it is a matter of local knowledge and judgment. General guidance on the use of all its dwelling house codes is published on the VOA's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications/dwellinghousecodingguide/files/contents.htm

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic dwellings were valued by the Valuation Office Agency for *(a)* inheritance tax and *(b)* capital gains tax purposes in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [284926]

Mr. Timms: This information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

In 2008-09 the VOA gave advice in 21,480 IHT cases and approximately 15,996 CGT cases. The majority of the IHT cases relate to dwellings but some also include non-domestic land and buildings. A lesser proportion of CGT cases also relate to dwellings.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 192WA, on housing: valuations, what factors are taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency when deciding whether to allocate a dwelling with a NA (Quality - atypical for Group or Type) value significant code. [284483]

Mr. Timms: The value significant code NA may be used where the quality of the property is considered to be significantly better or worse than properties of a similar style or type, to the extent that this will affect the value of the property. The Valuation Office Agency does not provide specific guidance to its staff on when to use the code—it is a matter of local knowledge and judgment. Guidance on the use of all its dwelling-house codes is published on the VOA's website at:

> www.voa.gov.uk/publications/dwellinghousecodingguide/files/contents.htm

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284398]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development maintains a number of computer databases for internal administration purposes, in the following business areas:

> The central Human Resources (HR) systems support staff recruitment, administration, payroll and performance, and contain personal information on members of DFID staff. Payroll systems in use by overseas offices contain personal information about locally engaged staff.
>
> Financial and Projects systems (ARIES, MIS and Coda) are used for administration of projects and accounts. These databases contain DFID suppliers and customers' contact and bank details.
>
> The Overseas Pensions system supports administration and payment of pensions to former colonial servants. This database contains personal, bank and payment data on former colonial servants.
>
> The Electronic Document and Records Management System (Quest) provides a repository for all documents and correspondence. A small number of documents containing personal information are held in secure areas.
>
> Correspondence systems enable tracking of parliamentary and public correspondence. These systems contain names and contact details of correspondents.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database become operational; and if he will make a statement. [284904]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) manages the following databases that contain personal information on members of the public:

> Financial and Projects systems (ARIES, MIS and Coda) are used for administration of projects and accounts. These databases contain DFID suppliers and customers' contact and bank details. The MIS and Coda systems became operational in February 1998; the ARIES system that replaces them became operational in November 2007.
>
> The Overseas Pensions system supports administration and payment of pensions to former colonial servants. This database contains personal, bank and payment data on former colonial servants, and became operational in February 1998.
>
> Correspondence systems enable tracking of parliamentary and public correspondence. These systems contain names and contact details of correspondents and became operational in December 1999.

India: Overseas Aid

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to the Orissa region of India in the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the effects of that assistance on the Adivasi population. [284012]

Mr. Michael Foster: Through its state programme, the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £124 million in Orissa over the last five years (2004-09). In addition, Orissa has benefited from DFID's support to national level programmes and to civil society: an estimated £4.5 million in the year 2008-09, with comparable expenditure in each of the previous years.

Two DFID programmes directly address poverty among the Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis) in Orissa. The Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project, aims to benefit 725,000 poor people, including 140,000 belonging to Scheduled Tribes. A recent independent review found that so far 31 per cent. of those targeted have moved out of poverty. The second programme, the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP), co-funded with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, aims to benefit 1.7 million people, including 315,000 Scheduled Tribe people. An independent review of the programme found that so far food security has improved in 67,500 households, safe drinking water has been provided to 47,625 households and 15,134 families have benefited from paid employment.

DFID also provides major support to the health sector across Orissa. This benefits all people in the state including the tribal population.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations have managed each project funded by his Department in the North Western Frontier Province of Pakistan since 2005; what the budget for each such project was; and how much his Department has spent on each such project to date. [284187]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported the following projects in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan since 2005.

North West Frontier Province

Programme	*Implementing agency*	*Commitment*	*£ million Spend to date*
NWFP Education Programme	Government of NWFP	13.8	13.6
NWFP Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Government of NWFP/Sarhad	7.3	6.89
NWFP Provincial Reforms Programme	Government of NWFP	6.8	2.32
Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme	Government of Pakistan (ERRA)	35	28.5
Earthquake Humanitarian Support Programme	UN/ICRC/NGOs	26.5	26.5
Humanitarian Support for people displaced by conflict	UN/ICRC	22	12
NWFP Primary Education Project	Government of NWFP	6.75	6.43
NWFP Sarhad Project	Sarhad	1.12	1.09

DFID has also supported the following nationwide programmes, which have helped provide services in NWFP as well as other parts of Pakistan:

Pakistan

Programme	*Implementing agency*	*Commitment (£ million)*
National Health and Population Facility	Ministry of Health	100
Polio Eradication Initiative	WHO/UNICEF	31
Maternal and Newborn Health Initiative	Ministry of Health	91
Achieving Universal Access to Control HIV/AIDS	Ministry of Health (World Bank Trust Fund)	5.0
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)	RSPN	11
Financial Inclusion Programme	State Bank of Pakistan	50

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department has allocated to organisations in the Swat, Dir, Malakand and Buner regions working with internally displaced persons following the Pakistani government's military action against the Swat region. [284191]

Mr. Michael Foster: There is limited access to the Swat, Dir, Malakand and Buner regions because of continued military operations and insecurity. The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping those who have been displaced from these districts in camps and host communities in neighbouring areas such as Swabi, Mardan, Charsadda, Peshawar and Nowshera.

DFID has committed a total of £22 million of humanitarian aid in response to this crisis, making us the second largest donor. Our funds are being used by international humanitarian agencies to meet critical needs. In total, DFID is funding 12 non-governmental organisations and eight United Nations' agencies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross. Our support is being used to provide shelter, food, water, sanitation, health care and protection for the most vulnerable, such as children.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Better Regulation Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on its Better Regulation Unit in each year since its inception. [282602]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families' (and predecessor Departments') Better Regulation Unit (BRU) has been operating since 1997. The current annual cost of salaries and overheads is £132,296.

Delivering value for money and better regulation are central to the work of the Department. The Department's BRU, which has never exceeded three members of staff since its inception in 1997, is part of a central corporate services function which ensures we gain maximum value for the taxpayer's money. Records separating the cost of different sections within the corporate services operation back to 1997 are not kept, but the total cost of the operation has been included in each year's Departmental Report.

Care Homes

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residential places there are for children in *(a)* local authority residential homes, *(b)* foster homes, *(c)* local authority secure accommodation and *(d)* Home Office secure accommodation. [281506]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of places in local authority residential homes in part *(a)* has been provided by Ofsted. There are 745 active local authority residential homes registered in England, consisting of boarding schools, children's homes, further education colleges and residential special schools, collectively offering a maximum of 9,235 registered places. Table A provides a breakdown of the maximum number of registered places according to their provision type.

Table A: Number of local authority residential homes in England (consisting of boarding schools, children's homes, further education colleges and residential special schools) as at 31 March 2009

Provision Type	*Number of providers*	*Maximum number of places*[1]
Boarding School	26	2,550
Children's Home	596	3,978
Further Education College	11	591
Residential Special School	112	2,116
Total	745	9,235

[1] The maximum number of registered places is calculated from figures held by Ofsted. Where these data are missing, the number of places has been estimated based on the national average for the provision type and sector at that point in time. Here there were 21 out of the 745 providers where places were estimated (2.8 per cent. of total places). Of these, 20 providers (379 places) were from Residential Special Schools (17.9 per cent. of RSS), with one provider (seven places) from a Children's Home (0.2 per cent. of CH). Where a provider's sector is unknown, the maximum number of places is estimated using only the national average for that provision type.

Note:

All data have been extracted from the Regulatory Support Application (RSA) database taken on 1 of April 2009.

Information on the number of foster homes places in part *(b)* is not held centrally by the Department.

Information on the number of places approved in local authority secure children's homes, requested in part *(c)* can be found in our publication 'Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes at 31 March 2008: England and Wales', which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000802/index.shtml

At 31 March 2008, there were 340 approved places in the 19 secure children's homes open in England and Wales.

Information on the number of places in Home Office secure accommodation in part *(d)* has been provided by the Joint Youth Justice Unit and consists of 3,007 places in Young Offender Institutions and 301 places in Secure Training Centres.

Children: Databases

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have requested the name of one of their children to be removed from the ContactPoint database since the database was introduced. [283209]

Dawn Primarolo: The inclusion of all children and young people in England is a legal requirement of ContactPoint and its purpose could never be achieved through a consent-based or opt-out system. Including all children avoids the potential stigma that a targeted directory could have. The information on ContactPoint is very limited and it is proportionate to hold this information for all children rather than having to continuously make and review threshold decisions as vulnerable children's circumstances change over time. It is also important and appropriate to cover every child in England because any child or young person could require the support of additional services at any time. It is not possible to predict accurately in advance which children will have additional needs—estimates show that 3-4 million children and young people will need additional targeted and specialist services at any one point in time and 5-6 million will have such needs at some point throughout their childhood. We need a universal approach because we do not know, or cannot readily predict, who they may be, or when their needs may arise.

All children have a right to the universal services of education and primary health care. ContactPoint will show whether or not they are receiving those services. ContactPoint will also support local authorities to identify children not in receipt of universal services.

They have duties, for example, to identify children missing education. Only a universal system can do this.

Since the introduction of ContactPoint in January 2009 the DCSF has received 58 requests via correspondence from parents to have their child's details removed from the ContactPoint database.

We are not aware of the numbers of requests made direct to local authorities.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been convicted of an offence related to misuse of information on the ContactPoint database. [283234]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no convictions related to misuse of the ContactPoint.

ContactPoint is designed, built, operated and managed to HM Government standards for security and complies with the strict controls imposed by HM Government security policy. Before being granted access, all users must have completed identity checks, enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure (renewable every three years) and mandatory training which covers the importance of security and good security practice, the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act. Users will also be members of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme when it is introduced.

Every access to a child's record is detailed in the audit trail. This is regularly reviewed to ensure that any misuse is detected and investigated.

ContactPoint training and guidance will also alert users that any misuse will lead to an immediate investigation, disciplinary procedures and criminal sanctions where appropriate. Criminal sanctions include fines under the Data Protection Act 1998 and fines or imprisonment under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Children: Emigration

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to strengthen the rights of parents resident in England seeking to challenge leave to remove applications; and if he will make a statement; [283307]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the well-being of families of the use of leave to remove applications; and if he will make a statement; [283304]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of successful leave to remove applications on the well-being of the *(a)* children subject to the application and *(b)* parent remaining in the UK; [283305]

(4) if he will make it his policy not to recognise leave to remove applications; and if he will make a statement; [283309]

(5) whether his Department takes steps to monitor the welfare of those children who have been the subject of successful leave to remove applications; and if he will make a statement; [283306]

(6) what information he holds for benchmarking purposes on the policies of the *(a)* US and *(b)* New Zealand government on leave to remove applications. [283308]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department currently has no plans to consider not recognising leave to remove applications or to strengthen the rights of those seeking to challenge leave to remove applications.

The Children Act 1989 ensures that any decision regarding a child or young person will be made in the child's best interests and his or her long and short-term welfare will be fully considered before any decisions, including leave to remove application, are taken. Following a successful removal the welfare of the child will be safeguarded by the country in which the child is resident.

The Department has not undertaken any recent research or benchmarking comparison into the effect on the family or the child where there has been a leave to remove application.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the new framework for the integrated children's system. [281261]

Dawn Primarolo: On 22 June Directors of Children's Services received a ministerial letter setting out the actions we will take to facilitate immediate improvements in local systems and to support local authorities in doing so. This letter was accompanied by a circular which sets out the immediate and longer term practical steps that we will take, and establishes the new principles which will guide future development of the Integrated Children's System. A copy has been placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Sight Impaired

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the eye health of children under the age of 16 years of prolonged exposure to television and computer screens. [264912]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not made any assessment of the affect of prolonged exposure to television and computer schemes. However the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) do offer advice on the impact of computer screens or monitors (Visual Display Units) on eye health on their website:

> Extensive research has found no evidence that VDUs can cause disease or permanent damage to eyes. But long spells of VDU work can lead to tired eyes and discomfort. Also, by giving your eyes more demanding tasks, it might make you aware of an eyesight problem you had not noticed before. You and your employer can help your eyes by ensuring your VDU is well positioned and properly adjusted, and that the workplace lighting is suitable. Ask for an eye test if you still think there is a problem.

Children's Play: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's play schemes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in 2009-10. [282065]

Mr. Coaker: Essex began receiving play funding from April 2009, as part of the second wave of the children's plan play capital investment programme. The authority has been allocated £545,655 capital funding and £27,681 revenue funding for 2009-10.

This capital investment programme will provide capital and revenue funding to every one of the 152 top-tier local authorities in England in order to develop/improve play spaces. Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on providing improved play spaces where they are most needed and involving a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

Day Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department provides for parents returning to work in respect of day care. [283501]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government provide a wide range of child care support for parents returning to work:

> The child care element of working tax credits provides help with child care for low and middle income working families. Parents working 16 or more hours per week can claim up to £140 per week for one child or £240 per week for two or more children.
>
> From 2006 all parents have also been able to take tax and NIC exempt child care vouchers worth up to £55 week from their salary, if their employer is signed up to offer the scheme.
>
> The Free Entitlement for three and four-year-olds is available to every family, whether or not they are in work. Every child is eligible for a free place for 12.5 hours per week, for 38 weeks of the year, from the term after their third birthday until they go to school. Almost 95 per cent. of three-year-olds and virtually all four-year-olds accessed at least some of their free place in 2009.
>
> We are currently rolling out an extension to 15 hours, which will be available across the country from September 2010. And, we are building on the universal entitlement for three and four-year-olds by making early years provision for four-year-olds more generous. From autumn 2011, to make sure children have the best start to their primary education, all children will be entitled to start school in the September after their fourth birthday, or be offered 25 hours of free early learning a week.
>
> Extended services in and around schools offer opportunities for families with school-aged children to access regular and reliable child care and enriching activities. There are currently over 17,000 extended schools (around 81 per cent. of the total) and we are working to ensure that all schools are offering services which are tailored to their community's needs by 2010.
>
> For those parents training in order to return to work, "Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work", started nationally in April 2009. It offers free child care for 50,000 low-income parents across the country and is aimed at helping families where one parent or partner is working and the other wants to learn or train. Child care support is available to single parents training for work through Jobcentre Plus and "Care to Learn" offers child care support to parents under the age of 20 who are in training.
>
> We are also working with HMRC and the London Development Agency to test different ways to deliver support for childcare through tax credits or through supply side funding, so parents in parts of London and the South East may have extra help available to them.
>
> It is also important that parents have access to enough information to be able to make choices about their children's care and what will work best for them and their children as they return to work. That is why we operate a free national telephone helpline for child care, have established over 3,000 Sure Start Children's Centres across the country, offering integrated services and information for families with children under five years old, and ensure that every local authority offers advice and information to parents of children of all ages, most commonly through Families Information Services.

Departmental Advisory Bodies, Tribunals and Corporations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* most recent annual budget, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* staff complement is of each of his Department's (i) advisory bodies, (ii) tribunals and (iii) corporations. [283291]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The following answer outlines the *(a)* most recent annual budget, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* staff complement of the each of the Department's (i) advisory bodies, (ii) tribunals and (iii) corporations.

(i) Advisory Bodies

Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

(a) Net annual budget is £0.04 million.

(b) The Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group is an advisory NDPB which monitors and advises Ministers on the Government's 10-year teenage pregnancy strategy to reduce teenage conceptions and improve support for teenage parents. It is funded through Teenage Pregnancy Programme.

(c) The body does not employ any staff.

Teachers' TV board of Governors

(a) Net annual budget is £0.14 million.

(b) The board acts as a high-powered advisory body that informs decisions taken by the Department. The board provides open accountability about the plans and performance of Teachers TV to the channel's audience, stakeholders and to the public. The board upholds the editorial independence of Teachers TV; ensures that the channel supplier adopts the best practices of a UK public service broadcaster; advises the Department on ways that Teachers TV could develop so that it best meets the need of its audience; approves the supplier's Statement of Content Policy; helps ensure the Teachers TV supplier is held accountable for the public funds it receives via an annual performance review; and acts as an ambassador for the service.

(c) The board is supported by one FTE employed by the Department.

Children's Plan Expert Group

(a) The group does not have a dedicated budget.

(b) There are three expert groups (ages 0-7, 8-13, and 14-19) whose remit will be to look at services and policies affecting children, young people and families and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on how best to deliver his long-term objectives to:

Improve the health and well-being of children and young people.

Safeguard the young and vulnerable.

Close the gap in educational achievement between those from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.

'Raise our game' on raising standards.

Increase post-16 participation and attainment.

Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success.

(c) The group does not employ any staff.

Information Standards Board

(a) Net annual budget of £0.74 million.

(b) The Information Standards Board (ISB) for education, skills and children's services in England is the system-wide authority for all information and data standards. Its mission is to facilitate information sharing across the system; agree information standards to aid frontline delivery; improve efficiency, reduce costs and minimise bureaucracy. The ISB is designated as an Internal Advisory Committee, but has ministerial authority to make recommendations and approve decisions on behalf of the system.

(c) The board does not employ staff directly. A part-time independent Chairman is appointed by the Ministers. A Secretariat of 0.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff is provided is provided by the Department. A Technical Support Service of 2.5 FTE is provided under contract.

Talent and Enterprise Taskforce

(a) The net annual budget is £4 million.

(b) The purpose of the Talent and Enterprise Taskforce is to promote the imperative of enabling everyone to discover, develop and apply their talents to fulfil their own aspirations and contribute to Britain's success in the new global economy. The Talent and Enterprise Taskforce is based in the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) but reports through to the cross-government Talent and Enterprise Committee.

(c) The taskforce currently employs 4.6 FTE.

National Council for Educational Excellence

(a) The net annual budget is £0.01 million.

(b) The National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) was set up to provide advice to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about strategy and measures to achieve world-class education performance for all children and young people from birth to age 19. It published its recommendation in October 2008. Since then council members have been working on implementation. Council members act as advocates and champions to transform expectations and aspirations for the education system, and to rally the teaching professions, businesses, the third sector, universities and colleges, schools and parents to raise standards year on year.

(c) The council does not employ any staff however currently one FTE co-ordinates its activities.

National Young People's Advisory Group

(a) The net annual budget is £0.02 million.

(b) The purpose of the advisory group is to draw on the expertise of young people's panels across thee country to help consider issues relating to delivery of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds.

(c) The advisory group employs one FTE for 10 days and one contractor for 10 days.

Children and Youth Board

(a) The annual budget is £0.2 million.

(b) The Children and Youth Board (CYB) was established in 2004 as part of the 'Every Child Matters' programme, where a commitment was made to enduring the participation of children and young people in shaping services that affect their lives. They provide advice to the Department on policies that affect them.

(c) The Children and Youth Board is managed by the National Children's Bureau (NCB) on the Department's behalf. The number of NCB staff involved in managing the CYB is three.

Young Muslims Advisory Group

(a) The annual budget is £0.25 million.

(b) The Young Muslims Advisory Group is a jointly funded project with CLG. The group was established in October 2008 to provide young Muslims in England a platform to directly engage with the Government on the issues affecting them, particularly the causes of violent extremism.

(c) OPM is the lead contractor of a consortium supporting CLG and DCSF managing the Young Muslims Advisory Group, with a dedicated project manager providing support throughout the two-year project. There is a seconded youth worker based in CLG who supports the 23 members of YMAG in meeting the aims and objectives of the group. Total number of staff therefore is two (however the group is made up of 23 young people between the ages of 17-25).

Child Safety Reference Group

(a) The group does not have a dedicated budget.

(b) The group was set up to provide advise and challenge the delivery of the improvements outlined in the PSA 13 Delivery Agreement; to provide a view on delivery based on experience at the frontline of service delivery; and to drive delivery through their organisations.

(c) The group consists of approximately 30 members.

(ii) Tribunals

Currently, the Department is not responsible for any tribunals.

(iii) Corporations

General Teachers Council of England

(a) Net annual budget of £18.97 million.

(b) The General Teaching Council for England is the independent professional body for teaching in England. It works for children, through teachers, in the interests of the public. It is committed to making sure young people have the best possible standards of learning and achievement. It keeps a register of qualified teachers in England and sets out and enforces standards for the teaching profession in the interests of the public. It provides advice to Government and other agencies on important issues that affect the quality of teaching and learning. It works with teachers to make sure its advice is based on practical experience and reliable research. It brings together teachers and other partners with an interest in the education service, including parents, governors and employers.

(c) The staff complement is 206.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of employing *(a)* press officers and *(b)* other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283072]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The cost of employing staff in the Department's Press Office in 2008/09 was £1,350,713.10. The other requested information was provided in the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 480-81W.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281511]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not appointed any graduate interns in the last six months. The Department, however, has recruited 32 graduate and undergraduate interns whose internships will be starting from 29 June 2009 for six to eight weeks as part of a Cabinet Office internship programme. The Department has also increased its recruitment of graduates this year to support its resourcing needs and provide opportunities for those entering the labour market at this time. The Department is currently recruiting around 80 executive officers and we are targeting graduates as part of this process. In addition to this, around 20 graduates will join the Department in October 2009 as part of the Civil Service Fast Stream.

The Department also intends to be part of the 'Graduate Talent Pool' programme that has been developed by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Free School Meals: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals have been entered for GCSE Latin in each year since 1997. [284578]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gifted Children: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of spending by his Department on the gifted and talented programme in each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [283223]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has historically spent between £10 to £20 million annually on delivering gifted and talented education. Information on the cost of the contracts to deliver the gifted and talented programme is commercial in confidence. Projected figures after 2011 are not available.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors his Department took into account when determining the age at which sex education becomes compulsory for children. [283510]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Only certain aspects of sex and relationships education, mainly the biological ones, are compulsory for all children in certain age groups. These are taught as part of the National Science Curriculum. Primary school children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are taught about reproduction, puberty and how a baby is born. In addition we expect schools to have a programme on sex and relationship education (SRE) that is delivered through well planned and non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE). We make it clear in our Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (July 2000) to schools that any programme of study must be tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. In early primary schools, SRE should focus on relationships such as friendship, bullying and the building of self-esteem.

We have announced our intention to make SRE compulsory as part of statutory PSHE, subject to the results of a consultation which the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is currently conducting. If this were to become statutory, schools will be required to provide a comprehensive programme covering both the biological and relationship aspects of SRE.

This will ensure that as well as receiving factual information, children and young people will have the opportunities to develop the skills they need to deal with the real life situations they face.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of his Department's £2.4 billion unspent capital funding at the end of the financial year 2008-09 referred to in the National Audit Office's report on financial management in his Department, HC 267, Session 2008-09, had been earmarked for early years capital programmes; for which such programmes such funding was earmarked; and whether that unspent funding will be carried over into future years. [284302]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The cumulative amount of the Department's unspent capital funding as at the end of the 2008-09 financial year relating to early years capital programmes is £363 million.

The Programmes that this affects is the delivery of Sure Start Children Centres, early years provision and childcare.

Unspent capital funding from prior financial years as well as 2008-09, is added to the Department's end of year flexibility (EYF).

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schoolchildren with a special educational need was diagnosed with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [283486]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The available information for the four latest years (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006) can be found in Table 9 of the following links:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/SFR14_2009_M.xls

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/SEN_NationalTablesFinal.xls

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/sfr20_2007_tables_oh.xls

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000661/SFR23-2006v2.pdf

The available information for 2005 can be found in Table 18 of the following link

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000584/AdditionalAnalysesv1.2.xls

Information on type of special educational need is collected only for those pupils with statements of SEN or those at School Action Plus.

Schools

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of maintained schools have identified the social and emotional aspects of learning as a key focus for their work with children; and if he will make a statement. [282440]

Mr. Coaker: Our latest figures for the implementation of the social and emotional aspects of learning programme in maintained schools show that 88 per cent. of primary schools and 63 per cent. of secondary schools in England were participating as at June 2009. Last year we set target participation rates for July 2009 of 90 per cent. for primary schools and 45 per cent. of secondary schools.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will assess the effects of school admissions policies based on residential location on social diversity among school pupils. [283094]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department published a bulletin in 2008 on "The Composition of Schools in England" which included data at local authority level to enable a comparison to be made between the socio-economic composition of a local authority area and the schools in the same area.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school places there are in *(a)* Castle Point, *(b)* Thurrock, *(c)* Southend and *(d)* Essex. [284953]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 7 July 2009]*: The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the capacity of all maintained mainstream schools, as part of the Surplus Places Survey. The most recent data available relate to the position at January 2008. The following table shows the overall capacity of schools within the constituency of Castle Point and the authorities of Thurrock, Southend and Essex.

Area	*Primary school capacity*	*Secondary school capacity*
Castle Point	6,839	7,098
Thurrock	14,996	8,124
Southend	14,121	13,158
Essex	115,979	96,960

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from each source fund of his Department's standards funds has been allocated in the last 12 months; and how much such funding he expects to be allocated in the next 12 months. [283224]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the Standards Fund allocations made to local authorities for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date.

Standards Fund allocations to local authorities

		(£ millions)
	2008-09	*2009-10*
Revenue Grants		
School Development Grant[1]	1,915.0	1,916.2
School Lunch Grant	78.8	78.8
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	184.9	194.0
Targeted Improvement Grant[2]	12.2	4.4
Making Good Progress	7.7	126.6
1-2-1 Tuition and Participation Key Stage 2 early roll out[3]	15.7	—
Extended Schools—Sustainability	73.5	134.4
Extended Schools Subsidy	7.1	37.8
Targeted Support for the Primary National Strategy	195.8	207.4
Targeted Support for the Secondary National Strategy	109.5	106.3
City Challenge[2]	32.8	3.6
Extending and increasing flexibility of free entitlement for 3 to 4-year-olds	80.0	170.0
Music	82.6	82.5
Playing for Success	12.8	13.1

Standards Fund allocations to local authorities

	2008-09	*2009-10*
		(£ millions)
Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme	17.0	18.5
National Challenge[2]	54.9	0.7
Total Revenue Grants	2,880.2	3,094.6
Capital Grants[4]		
Devolved Formula Capital	802.0	1,090.5
Building Schools for the Future (BSF)[5]	635.8	845.9
Primary Capital Programme	143.5	740.2
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Standards and Diversity	53.6	43.6
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—One School Pathfinders	435.4	329.0
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Main Programme	170.5	9.5
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Kitchens	8.3	25.2
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Cookery in the Curriculum	1.0	27.3
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—14-19 Diploma/SEN	—	303.0
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Specialist Sports Colleges[6]	—	22.0
Modernisation	—	300.6
Harnessing Technology	200.8	200.8
Framework Academies[5]	101.3	199.9
Extended Schools (Capital)	84.0	89.0
Miscellaneous Capital	24.8	34.1
Basic Need Safety Valve	22.7	19.3
City Learning Centres	15.8	15.5
Specialist Schools Capital	17.5	3.4
School Travel Plans[7]	15.4	—
Home Access for Targeted Groups 7	18.0	—
Total Capital Grants	2,750.3	4,298.9

[1] Provisional allocation for 2009-10. Subject to change as a result of final pupil numbers.

[2] Further allocations to be made during 2009-10 as projects progress.

[3] Within Making Good Progress from 2009-10.

[4] From October 2009 the Department intends to transfer certain of its operational functions in relation to schools capital funding, including capital grant payments to local authorities, to Partnerships for Schools.

[5] Full year spend for 2009-10 could reach £1,010 million (BSF) and £350 million (Framework Academies) if projects in the pipeline reach their expected milestones during the year.

[6] Part of TCF Standards and Diversity programme in 2008-09.

[7] Allocations for 2009-10 yet to be made.

[8] Home Access programme will be not routed through local authorities in 2009-10.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from each source fund of the area-based grant scheme he expects to be allocated in the next 12 months. [283225]

Mr. Coaker: The following DCSF funding streams, totalling £1,305,693,127, will be paid as part of the area based grant in the 2009-10 financial year:

	£
School Development Grant (LA element)	168,304,785
Extended Schools Start-up Grant	171,887,387
Primary National Strategy (Central Coordination)	29,978,887
Secondary National Strategy (Central Coordination)	29,999,869
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Central Coordination	13,761,080
School Improvement Partners	23,604,520
Education Health Partnerships	13,210,940
School Travel Advisers	6,874,000
Choice Advisers	5,599,998
School Intervention grant	14,998,900
Flexible 14-19 Partnerships funding	14,499,986
Sustainable Travel to School (General Duty)	3,997,308
Extended Rights to free transport	19,734,979
Connexions	466,732,009
Children's Fund	131,804,428
Positive activities for young people	74,500,037
Teenage pregnancy	27,500,000
Children's Social Care Workforce	18,156,004
Youth Taskforce	4,343,719
Care matters	47,379,999
Child death review process	7,399,995
Child Trust Fund	1,122,023
Substance Misuse	7,002,274
Designated Teacher Funding	3,300,000
Total	1,305,693,127

Science: Primary Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to promote the teaching of science in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [283275]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government have accepted Sir Jim Rose's proposals for a new primary curriculum to come into effect from 2011 which will give schools more flexibility to meet pupils' individual needs and build on prior learning. From January 2010, a support package will be available to help schools and teachers implement the new primary curriculum. The support package is currently being developed in consultation with schools and teachers and will include promoting the effective teaching of science.

It will also be accompanied by the new Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) materials for primary science which will enable teachers to make judgments about their pupils' attainment against national curriculum levels and inform individual learning to promote improved teaching of science in primary schools and complement the approach taken at secondary schools.

The national network of Science Learning Centres provides high quality CPD in science for primary and secondary science teachers, teaching assistants and technicians. Primary teachers are also eligible for bursaries to cover the cost of attending professional development courses at the National Science Learning Centre in York.

The Department has awarded a contract to the Association for Science Education (ASE) to run a support programme to improve the use of practical work in science across primary and secondary schools. The programme builds on the work undertaken by SCORE (Science Community Representing Education) on best practice in this area and aims to provide teachers with innovative, effective advice, guidance, and support regarding the use of practical work in science.

Teaching Methods

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, what criteria he plans to use to identify children who are behind at the end of their primary school education who are to be offered additional tuition at the start of their secondary education; what arrangements will be made for allocating funding to meet expenditure on such tuition; and whether the tuition offered will be in hours outside those provided for the teaching of the secondary school curriculum. [284068]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Every pupil who leaves primary school at the end of the summer term 2010 without reaching the expected National Curriculum level 4 in either English or mathematics will be guaranteed extra support when they start secondary school through one-to-one or small group catch-up tuition in year 7. Local authorities will be responsible for allocating funding to their secondary schools to support any year 7 pupils who need one-to-one tuition. If pupils are identified for small group tuition or other catch-up support, money has already been included within school budgets up to 2011 to support personalised learning.

It is up to schools to decide when and how to offer the catch-up tuition. The new secondary curriculum which we began implementing from September last year gives schools more scope to provide catch-up support during the school day if they judge this the most appropriate option for their pupils.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to discourage the *(a)* closure and *(b)* development for other uses of local authority allotments. [284170]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities are already required under section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 to obtain consent from the Secretary of State to dispose of statutory allotments. Section 8 applications are considered against criteria set out by the Secretary of State, which require local authorities to ensure that adequate provision is made for displaced allotment holders, that the availability of allotment sites has been actively publicised, and that they have taken into account the number of people on the allotment waiting list as well as latent demand.

Given the ever increasing demand for allotments, my Department has recently written to the Government office responsible for determining applications for consent for disposal of statutory allotments in England on behalf of the Secretary of State, to stress the need to demand and scrutinise evidence from local authorities to support their applications for allotment disposals.

Audit Commission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Audit Commission has for the rebranding of its comprehensive area assessment programme. [284040]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 8 July 2009:

Your Parliamentary question on what plans the Audit Commission has for the rebranding of its comprehensive area assessment programme has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission, Care Quality Commission, HMIs Prisons, Probation and Constabulary, and Ofsted, set out in our published Framework document our aim to develop a user-friendly reporting system for comprehensive area assessments.

The Framework states that: 'CAA is an important part of assessing and reporting on how well public money is spent, and making sure that local public bodies are accountable to the public for their service quality and impact.'

We are currently developing a user-friendly format for the reporting of the assessment results. We will be branding our dedicated CAA website 'oneplace'.

The public launch of the 'oneplace' website, delivered through Directgov, will be in early December. We began to communicate 'oneplace' through our presence at the recent Local Government Association (LGA) conference in Harrogate.

If you would like a more detailed briefing on our work in this area and the 'oneplace' website, please let me know.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

City-regional Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 20, chapter one of the Draft Legislative Programme 2009, Cm 7654, what definition his Department uses of city-regional government. [283769]

Ms Rosie Winterton: City-regional government in this context refers to local government working in partnership across a city-region.

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, on housing, on what date he plans to publish his Department's consultation document on the reform of the council housing finance system; and when he expects the consultation exercise to be completed. [284476]

Mr. Ian Austin: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing intends to publish the consultation document before the summer recess. The consultation period will be for a minimum of 12 weeks in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the report of the review of council housing finance which began in December 2007 will be published; and what the timetable is for the consultation on council housing finance he plans to launch before the summer recess. [284970]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will publish a research report alongside the consultation. The consultation period will be for a minimum of 12 weeks in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will direct a moratorium on large-scale voluntary transfers of local authority housing stock. [284909]

Mr. Ian Austin: No. The consultation document we will publish shortly on our proposal to devolve council housing finance will include further information on how we might deal with current and future housing transfer proposals.

Council Housing: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what protections will be provided to local authority tenants on *(a)* security of tenure, *(b)* rent levels and *(c)* improvements to reach the Decent Homes standard under his proposals for the self-financing of council housing. [284982]

Mr. Ian Austin: The proposals for self-financing would have no impact on the statutory security of tenure enjoyed by council tenants. Nor do they include any proposed changes to the Government's social rent policy. Self-financing would need to deliver the resources required to maintain the Decent Homes standard; any backlog of Decent Homes work at the time of a self-financing settlement would have to be addressed through Communities and Local Government capital programmes, as currently.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money was raised in gross council tax receipts in England in each year from 1997 to 1998. [284504]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total amount of council tax collected in 1997-98 and 1998-99 was £9.5 billion and £10.5 billion respectively.

Council Tax: Discounts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average annual change in council tax revenue collected by local authorities exercising their powers to reduce council tax discounts on *(a)* second and *(b)* empty homes in the last three years. [283841]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the average annual change in council tax revenue to be collected by those local authorities that have exercised their powers to reduce council tax discounts on *(a)* second and *(b)* empty homes in the last three years are shown in the table.

		Percentage
	Second homes	*Empty homes*
2006-07	5.4	5.4
2007-08	5.2	5.1
2008-09	5.0	4.8

Council Tax: Overpayments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities in relation to overpayments of council tax. [283838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not provide guidance to local authorities in relation to overpayments of council tax. The administration of council tax is for local authorities, not central Government.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Tribunal Service makes an estimate of the number of homes which are *(a)* over-valued for council tax purposes and *(b)* in too high a council tax band. [283780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Valuation Tribunal Service makes no such estimates.

Councillors: Allowances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to collate and publish figures for allowances paid to councillors by each local authority. [284043]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities are required to publish the recommendations of their independent remuneration committee for the level of councillors' allowances, the level of allowances for councillors determined by the authority and the actual amount of allowances claimed by councillors.

Councillors: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on levels of *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer pension contributions in relation to councillors who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [284090]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The contribution rate paid by councillors who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme is set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997. The contribution rate for their authority is set by the actuary appointed to carry out the triennial valuation of the relevant scheme pension fund.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposals in the draft legislative programme 2009 on his Department's budget for the next two years. [284284]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government continually assesses the impact of new legislation on both departmental and local government finances for current and future years. Forthcoming legislation for 2009-10 was included in a draft programme published in "Building Britain's Future" (29 June 2009) and CLG is working with lead Departments to identify costs for inclusion in individual impact assessments for each new Bill.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have included reference to the use of wheelie bins in their annual efficiency reports to his Department. [284287]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Annual efficiency statements were submitted by councils for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08 inclusive. During that period, the following councils referred to wheelie bins in their statements:

Ashfield District Council
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Bedfordshire County Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Brighton and Hove City Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Carlisle City Council
London Borough of Croydon
Daventry District Council
Mansfield District Council
Mole Valley District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Purbeck District Council
Reading Borough Council
Salisbury District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Kesteven District Council
Southampton City Council
Thanet District Council
London Borough of Waltham Forest
West Lindsey District Council
Worcester City Council
Worthing Borough Council

Eco-towns: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimated timetable is for the construction of each eco-town. [284072]

John Healey: As we have previously announced, our aim is to see exemplar eco-town projects underway in the next couple of years and up to 10 eco-towns under development by 2020.

Empty Property

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of empty dwellings in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* Hemel Hempstead. [283673]

Mr. Ian Austin: In October 2008, there were 784,022 empty domestic dwellings in England. Of these, 105,111 were in the South East of England, 11,435 were in Hertfordshire and 1,612 were in the Dacorum council area. Data are not available at constituency level.

Energy Performance Certificates and Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the average maximum duration of validity of an energy performance certificate for a domestic property. [284167]

John Healey: An energy performance certificate (EPC) is valid for 10 years from the date on which it is issued, or until a newer EPC is issued for the building concerned, unless it is to be used as one of the prescribed documents in a home information pack (HIP), which is required to be in place for all residential properties marketed for sale in England and Wales, in which case it will be valid for three years from the date on which it is issued.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* home information packs that were purchased in the last 12 months. [284264]

John Healey: Information about the number of energy performance certificates (EPCs) lodged in England and Wales in both the domestic and non-domestic sectors is available on the EPC register website at:

www.epcregister.com

There is no central register for the number of home information packs however we estimate that 1.1 million home information packs have been produced during the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of levels of compliance with duties relating to home information packs (HIPs) by *(a)* sellers and *(b)* estate agents since the introduction of HIPs. [283882]

John Healey: Local authority trading standards offices and the Office of Fair Trading have statutory responsibility for enforcing the home information pack duties through s.166 and s.175 of the Housing Act 2004. The information requested is not held centrally.

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were classified by local authorities as intentionally homeless in each of the last 10 years. [283467]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of decisions on applications from households eligible for assistance, who were found by local authorities to be in a priority need category but had become homeless intentionally. Information is not held centrally on the overall number of intentionally homeless households.

The number of households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need, in each of the past 10 years, is published in table 1 of the Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available on the web and in the Library at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1251698.xls

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effect on local authority budgets for 2009-10 of his Department's decision to reduce housing and planning delivery grant allocations in order to fund changes to local authority rent increases. [284442]

Mr. Ian Austin: The housing and planning delivery grant (HPDG) allocation was reduced from £160 million to £135 million in 2009-10 and from £250 million to £200 million in 2010-11 in order to balance budgets, including the impact of changes to local authority rent increases. This reflects the decline in housing completions and the lower number of plans being submitted. The baseline of HPDG will still increase significantly, almost doubling to the £200 million figure next year from £101 million in 2008-09.

The average HPDG allocation to local authorities is therefore budgeted to rise from £254,000 in 2008-09 to £340,000 in 2009-10 and £504,000 in 2010-11.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties which will be (i) started and (ii) completed before May 2010; [284912]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, on housing, what estimate he made of the cost of building each new *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association property in order to calculate the numbers of each type to be built. [284914]

Mr. Ian Austin: The national average total cost of building a new social home has been estimated at around £150,000. All grant funding provided as part of Building Britain's Future will be subject to competitive bidding and is expected to be considerably less than the total cost of providing a new home.

The details of the number of homes to be started and completed, taking account of the additions announced in Building Britain's Future, will be published in the HCA corporate plan.

Housing: Energy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes classified as energy-efficient have been built in Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281973]

Mr. Ian Austin: All new homes built in England in the last five years have been required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in part L of the Building Regulations. The part L standard for new homes was raised by 25 per cent. in 2002 and by a further 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. The following table shows the total number of new build dwellings in the East of England region for each year from 2004-05 onwards.

	Number
2004-05	19,890
2005-06	20,250
2006-07	22,560
2007-08	22,230
2008-09	17,680

The Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) provides an energy rating for new dwellings by demonstrating compliance with part L of the Building Regulations. In general, homes built to current part L correspond with SAP ratings of B or C. Some homes are built to exceed minimum regulatory standards, for example as a result of building to the code for sustainable homes.

SAP is used to generate Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for new build dwellings. From 6 April 2008, it became mandatory to lodge all SAP EPCs for new build dwellings on the England and Wales Domestic EPC Register. In the constituency of Castle Point 19 SAP EPC lodgements were made in 2008 and 11 SAP EPC lodgements have been made in 2009 up to and including 29 June 2009.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated to each local authority for 2009-10. [283918]

John Healey: Information on the Homes and Communities Agency expenditure, including by local authority area, will be published annually in the Agency's report and accounts.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the number of housing *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions under the National Affordable Housing Programme in each region in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [283451]

(2) what targets for housing *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions under the National Affordable Housing Programme have been set for each region for each of the next three years. [283430]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government do not set regional targets for the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). The details of how the NAHP will be managed, taking account of the Housing Pledge, part of Building Britain's Future, announced on 29 June 2009, will be published in the HCA Corporate Plan shortly.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* OwnHome, *(b)* My Choice HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy schemes in each of the last three years. [284190]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) gave him on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540W.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Recruitment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant posts at the Infrastructure Planning Commission are being advertised to civil servants only. [284009]

John Healey: None of the permanent vacancies are being confined to civil servants. Recruits are being sought through advertisements in national press, specialist publications and a wide range of media in the Bristol and south west area.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the practice of co-mingling in relation to *(a)* local authority investments and *(b)* funds from the Local Government Pension Scheme. [284002]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No guidance has been issued specifically on co-mingling.

Within the framework of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998, as amended, LGPS administering authorities make their own decisions on pension fund investments and the use of pension fund monies.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission plans respond to the Seventh Report of the Communities and Local Government Committee of Session 2008-09, HC 164, on local authority investments. [284089]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Yes, the Audit Commission has been invited to make a formal response by the Select Committee on the inquiry into local authority investments and will do so by the required date of 21 September 2009.

Local Government: Contracts

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many procurement contracts have been agreed by *(a)* unitary or county councils and *(b)* district councils with IBM in the last five years. [284407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Local Government: Debt Collection

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the absolute monetary value of each local authority's net collectable debt has not been collected in each year since 1997-98. [283775]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the amount of council tax and national non-domestic rates uncollected in cash terms in England in each year since 1997-98 are shown in £ millions in the following table. The data relate to the non-collection of council tax and national non-domestic rates within the year to which it relates. The table also shows the amount of uncollected council tax and national non-domestic rates as a proportion of the total amount of council tax and national non-domestic local authorities expected to collect if every taxpayer paid the full amount for which they are liable after discounts and benefit.

	Council tax not collected within year (£ million)	*Council tax not collected as percentage of net collectible debit*	*National non-domestic rates not collected within year (£ million)*	*National non-domestic rates not collected as percentage of net collectible debt*
1997-98	428	4.5	394	3.4
1998-99	463	4.4	387	3.3
1999-2000	501	4.4	350	2.8
2000-01	517	4.2	352	2.6
2001-02	518	3.9	316	2.1
2002-03	531	3.6	281	1.9
2003-04	582	3.5	266	1.7
2004-05	590	3.4	249	1.7
2005-06	592	3.2	269	1.6
2006-07	613	3.1	229	1.3
2007-08	601	2.9	215	1.2
2008-09	636	3.0	423	2.2

Collection of council tax and national non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which the tax relates has ended. This means that the final amount uncollected is somewhere between the figures shown here and zero.

The data are derived from data reported on QRC4 forms submitted annually by all billing authorities to Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments.

Local Government: Joint Ventures

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the recent judgement of the Court of Appeal in the case of Risk Management Partners United v Council of the London Borough of Brent and others on the establishment of new joint working service ventures. [284007]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 196W.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will withdraw plans for unitary local government restructuring in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [283829]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing told the House on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 22-24WH, if appropriate unitary structures are identified they have the potential to offer real benefits for the residents of Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk by delivering better services, improved efficiency, stronger strategic leadership and genuine engagement and empowerment of local communities.

There is strong evidence that the nine new unitary authorities established on 1 April 2009 are already delivering such benefits, and we will therefore carefully consider any advice from the Boundary Committee, which we have requested by 15 July 2009, and intend to take our statutory decisions as to whether to implement any unitary proposals for these three county areas as soon as practicable.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the gross cost to the public purse of the recent round of local government restructuring. [284073]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 373W.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage public satisfaction rate with *(a)* household waste collections *and (b)* local government as a whole was recorded by the (i) Best Value Survey and (ii) Place Survey in each relevant year since 1997. [284044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables provide the percentage public satisfaction rate with *(a)* household waste collections and *(b)* local government as a whole recorded by the BVPI Survey and Place Survey in each relevant year since 1997.

BVPI Survey

	Percentage satisfied with the waste collection service overall (BV90a)	*Percentage satisfied with the way the authority runs things (BV3)*
2000-01	86	65
2003-04	84	55
2006-07	79	54

Place Survey

	Percentage satisfied with refuse collection	*Percentage satisfied with how the council runs things*
2008	78	45

Published results from the BVPI surveys are not directly comparable with the results from the Place Survey. The published BVPI national results are averages based on each council's results. The published Place Survey results are weighted totals for all respondents in England.

The requested information was collected by the BVPI surveys in 2000-01, 2003-04, and 2006-07. The results have been published in a report by Communities and Local Government which is available to download via the following website address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueuser

Tables 2, 3 and 6 contain the requested information.

Similar information was collected by the Place Survey in 2008. The results have been published in a statistics release by Communities and Local Government which is available to download via the following website address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/placesurvey2008

The requested information can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received financial support under the *(a)* mortgage rescue scheme and *(b)* mortgage homeowners support scheme. [284169]

John Healey: The mortgage rescue scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January to May 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

The aim of homeowners mortgage support is to prevent repossessions, where households suffer a temporary income shock. The Government have published an impact assessment, which estimates how many borrowers, at UK level, could be eligible. Official figures on the number of households entering the scheme will be published later this year.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners are in receipt of assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [284279]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 317W.

National Policy Statements

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the publication of *(a)* draft and *(b)* final national policy statements. [283834]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government published on its website on 27 January a Route Map for implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime, including the current timetable for preparation of national policy statements which are the responsibility of the lead Departments concerned. Copies are available in the House Library.

We confirmed in the Route Map that we would discuss the appropriate lead in time for the commencement of the new regime with potential promoters, industry and other interested organisations, and then update it to reflect that process.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether firms which are in arrears in their business rate payments will be eligible for the business rate deferral scheme. [284008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ratepayers in arrears can be granted deferral by billing authorities. However, in cases where a ratepayer has been noticed by their billing authority that they have lost the right to make payments by instalment and that therefore their whole liability has become due, the billing authority can deny them deferral. This will be set out in regulation.

Billing authorities will have discretion to enter into special payment arrangements with businesses facing financial difficulties, of which the deferral scheme should be seen as an additional tool.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the rate of take-up of small business rate relief amongst eligible firms; and on what assumptions on take-up made in the 2008-09 financial year the increase in the multiplier for business rates for medium-sized and large firms was based. [284081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of properties reported by local authorities as claiming small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006 was 392,000.

Local authorities reported that they granted £723 million small business rate relief between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008. They expect to grant a further £570 million of relief in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

We have made no recent estimate of the overall take-up rate of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) as data are not held on the number of firms that are eligible. We asked local authorities to estimate numbers of businesses that were eligible for SBRR in the annual national non-domestic rate return. We are examining these data to assess their quality before making a decision whether they are suitable for publication. Meanwhile, we are working to see if we can establish an estimate for take-up using previous research in this area.

Small business rate relief is funded by a supplement on the multiplier paid by those firms not receiving the relief. In 2008-09, an assumption was made that there would be a small increase in the number of ratepayers receiving the relief, following a change in legislation in 2008-09 allowing ratepayers to apply just once for the relief in each revaluation period.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the expected take-up rate of the partial deferment scheme for increases in business rates. [284064]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An assessment of the impact of the deferral scheme will be published alongside the regulations when they are laid in Parliament in July.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed business rate partial deferment scheme will provide for refunds to businesses which have paid more than 40 per cent. of the value of the 2009-10 rate increase. [284175].

Ms Rosie Winterton: The deferral scheme will enable businesses to defer payment of 60 per cent. of the annual RPI increase in their 2009-10 rates bill—and, where applicable, 60 per cent. of any increase due to the end of the 2005 transitional relief scheme—until 2010-11 and 2011-12. Regulations implementing the scheme will be brought into force by the end of July.

It does not matter whether ratepayers have already paid, through monthly instalments, a certain portion of their 2009-10 rates bills when the scheme comes into force. All ratepayers with outstanding 2009-10 rates liabilities will be able to defer the amounts set out above (or their entire outstanding liability if that is a lesser amount). The deferred amount will be deducted from their remaining 2009-10 instalment payments.

The Government do not have the power to make the regulations apply retrospectively, so billing authorities will not be able to provide refunds to any ratepayers who have chosen to pay their 2009-10 rates liabilities in full instead of exercising their right to pay by instalments.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average business rate bill in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 in England. [284506]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average non-domestic rates bill in England is estimated as £11,357 in 2008-09 and £12,145 in 2009-10.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 754-55W, on non-domestic rates, what the amount of costs associated with implementing deferral of business rate payments is in Table C11 of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report within the departmental expenditure limit for his Department. [285076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The net additional costs to local government as a whole associated with implementing the business rates deferral scheme will be fully funded in accordance with the Government's policy on new burdens. We have estimated those costs to be approximately £5.8 million. The costs will be found from the existing 2009-10 CLG Local Government Departmental Expenditure Limit of £25.6 billion, as set in Column 3 of Table C11.

Non-domestic Rates: Aerials

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether business rates may be levied in respect of mobile telephone pico-masts. [284174]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Yes.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the additional net revenue raised under the new arrangements for empty property business rates in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [283828]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amount of empty property relief that local authorities estimated that they will grant in 2008-09 and 2009-10 was £1,001 million and £570 million respectively, compared with £1,294 million in 2007-08.

These data are available in table 2 of the Statistics Release "National non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2009-10" that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/forecast/

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of non-domestic buildings which were demolished in each region in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; on what proportion of such buildings business rates were being paid; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [285131]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Neither the Department nor its agencies collect statistics on the number of demolitions of non-domestic properties. Nor do we make estimates of these figures for the next three years.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Valuation Office Agency took to implement the Government's policy that 2000 businesses within the hereditaments of the statutory ports should be separately rated in 2005. [284997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From 1 April 2005, the statutory ports (i.e. the operational land and buildings occupied by the statutory port operators) were removed from prescribed assessment under paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Instead, their rateable values were assessed by the Valuation Office Agency using conventional valuation rules (in paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 to the 1988 Act).

Where a company has exclusive use, under a licence or other agreement with the designated port operator, a separate assessment is appropriate. This is a principle that applies right across rating and is not limited to ports. This is a long established principle for assessing properties both pre and post 1 April 2005.

The change in how the port operator was rated did not affect the principle determining whether the operator or occupier was liable to rates. There have been separate assessments at ports for a number of years where the circumstances justify it.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) notified port operators in each scheduled port that they were to be separately rated for business rates; how they were notified; what consultation the VOA held with operators in each port on the matter; and what assessment the VOA made in each case of the business consequence to businesses of the changes. [284998]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 22 May 2006, the Valuation Office Agency initiated the review of all major ports to ensure consistency of treatment across the ports themselves and with the rating of similar businesses outside. They approached the port operators for full details of all port occupiers and—as the information they required was supplied—started to inspect all the ports as part of the conventional rating process. A number of instances were found where a property that constituted a separate rateable property was either not assessed at all or was included in the overall port assessment.

Occupiers were initially contacted in writing, by telephone or in person. Depending on the circumstances of the case, more than one inspection may have been required. As part of the review process the Agency highlighted the potential effect of the ports review to the occupiers affected.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what business rate assessments the Valuation Office Agency made on port operators in 2005; when it decided to change these assessments; and for what reason it so decided. [284999]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Valuation Office Agency assessed 55 large statutory ports and container terminals as part of the process of compiling the new rating lists for the 2005 revaluation. The original assessments in the 2005 list were produced in good faith on the basis of this information.

It was only after the 2005 rating lists were compiled that, through routine rating work in the port of Southampton, it was established that further properties should be separately assessed. Immediately, on 22 May 2006, the VOA initiated a review of all major ports to ensure consistency of treatment across the ports themselves and with the rating of similar businesses outside.

North East Regional Assembly: Sovereign Strategy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent payments the North East regional assembly and its successor have made to Sovereign Strategy in each of the last three years; and for what purposes. [283701]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Association of North East Councils (ANEC) have checked their records and confirmed that no payments have been made to Sovereign Strategy in any of the last three years from either the North East assembly or themselves.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003 in relation to the pooling of receipts from equity share sales on the number of local authorities which offer shared equity housing schemes. [284546]

Mr. Ian Austin: No overall assessment has been made of the effect on all local authorities which offer shared equity schemes of the requirement under section 11 of the Local Government Act 2003 in relation to the pooling of receipts.

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's budgets have been changed as a result of the proposed additional funding for social homes announced in the Building Britain's Future publication. [283832]

John Healey: The £1.5 billion for the Housing Pledge is additional expenditure on new affordable housing and related housing market provision as set out in Building Britain's Future. It is funded through contributions from other Government Departments and reprioritisation of Communities and Local Government programmes.

Social Rented Housing: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase the supply of affordable and social housing in Torbay. [284626]

Mr. Ian Austin: Following increased funding nationally from the Department, the Homes and Communities Agency has already allocated £8.6 million of grant funding to Torbay over the period 2008-11. This will deliver 185 new homes for rent and 39 shared ownership homes. Torbay could also benefit from the new funding streams (totalling £1.5 billion) in the Housing Pledge announced as part of "Building Britain's Future" on 29 June.

My predecessor published Proposed Changes to the new South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which would require Torbay to accommodate at least 15,000 new homes between 2006 and 2026, of which at least 35 per cent. should be affordable housing. The core strategy which Torbay borough council are currently preparing as part of their local development framework will set out the policy context for the future development of the area, and will need to address the overall growth levels set out in the RSS.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of providing the 49 additional pitches for Travellers sites in Hinckley and Bosworth required by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment under the Local Development Framework. [284551]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Hinckley and Bosworth Submission Core Spatial Strategy, part of the LDF, which has yet to be formally adopted, makes provision for an additional 42 residential pitches for Gypsy and Travellers but does not specify the delivery mechanism for these provisions. The expectation is that the Gypsy and Traveller allocations, as with other housing allocations, will be delivered through a mix of public and private investment. For further detail I would refer the hon. Member to Hinckley and Bosworth borough council.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether information derived from *(a)* building control and *(b)* planning departments is transferred to the Valuation Office Agency from local authorities using the Valuebill electronic interface. [284567]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 672W.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding had been *(a)* allocated to, *(b)* distributed to and *(c)* spent by local authorities in Neighbourhood Renewal Funding in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much such funding he expects to be (A) allocated, (B) distributed and (C) spent by local authorities in 2010-11. [285077]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) replaced the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) in April 2008. £464.5 million WNF funds were allocated and distributed to local authorities in 2008-09 and £507.8 million in 2009-10.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid to local authorities through the non-ringfenced area based grant. We expect local authorities to spend all of this money. Local authorities are subject to annual audit by Audit Commission appointed independent auditors who report on whether their general income is used efficiently and effectively with a view to ensuring value for money.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 9 July 2009

TRANSPORT

Airports

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of enacting the proposed special administration regime in the event of a major airport owner going into administration. [283960]

Paul Clark: As part of a consultation on proposals to reform the economic regulation of airports, the Department for Transport sought views on a package of proposed measures to strengthen the financial resilience of airports. The Department is currently considering responses to the consultation and will make an appropriate assessment of special administration following analysis of those consultation responses.

Crossings: Tolls

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport who is responsible for setting the charges for *(a)* the Severn Crossing, *(b)* the Dartford Crossing and *(c)* the Humber Crossing. [285577]

Mr. Khan: For the Severn Crossing, Severn River Crossing plc is responsible for setting the toll charges. The Severn Bridge Act 1992 sets out the formula to increase toll charges in line with RPI. Under this Act the Secretary of State for Transport is required to make an Order in December each year fixing the toll amounts for the following calendar year.

For the Dartford Crossing, Le Crossing Company Ltd (who operate the tunnel) are responsible for setting the road user charge. The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for approving this using powers under the Transport Act 2000.

For the Humber Bridge, the Humber Bridge Board is responsible for setting the toll charges. Under the Humber Bridge Act 1971, the Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for approving any proposals for toll increases submitted by the Board.

Cycling: Finance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital funding has been allocated to the links to schools cycling programme in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Huntingdonshire and *(d)* Peterborough in each year since the inception of the programme. [283415]

Mr. Khan: Between 2005 and March 2008, Sustrans (Sustainable Transport Charity) has on the Department for Transport's behalf made available £511,531 in grants for the Eastern region to deliver a Links to Schools programme working with local authorities. Of this amount, £170,281 has been made available to Cambridgeshire county council. More detailed information is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Cycling: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [284425]

Mr. Khan: Between 2005 and March 2008, Sustrans (the Sustainable Transport Charity) has on the Department for Transport's behalf made available £782,667 in grants for local authorities in the East of England region to deliver a Links to Schools programme to encourage more children to cycle to school. Of this amount, £32,436 has been made available to Hertfordshire county council.

We have also been awarding cycle training grants to local authorities since 2006-07 to encourage cycling to school and the Links to Schools programme referred to above. The grants awarded each year to Hertfordshire county council are set out in the following table.

Local authority cycle training grants to Hertfordshire county council

	Grant (£)
2006-07	28,000
2007-08	59,500
2008-09	65,000
2009-10	70,000
Total 2006-07 to 2009-10	222,500

Departmental Consultants

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether consultants acting as interim managers in his Department may *(a)* dismiss civil servants and *(b)* initiate formal procedures against civil servants on the grounds of (i) poor performance, (ii) attendance and (iii) discipline. [283199]

Chris Mole: Consultants acting as managers may take any management action short of dismissal, but a decision to dismiss decision can only be taken by a civil servant.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285027]

Chris Mole: The position regarding updating web browsers from Internet Explorer 6 (IE6) varies between the Department for Transport (DfT) (Central) and its Agencies, and can be summarised as follows:

	Position
Department for Transport (Central)	DfT (Central) migrated from IE6 to IE7 in 2008.
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	Plan to upgrade from IE 6 between September 2009 and March 2010 on its main campus, and September 2009 and September 2010 across the Local Services Network.
Highways Agency	Currently have no plans to update from IE6.
Driving Standards Agency	Are currently evaluating IE7 and IE8. If tests successful, one of these versions will be rolled out in the next three months.
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	Currently have no plans to upgrade from IE6.
Marine and Coastguard Agency	Currently still using IE6 as required for core business systems, but plan to test IE8 in early 2010 with an aim to migrate in mid 2010.
Vehicle Certification Agency	Plan to upgrade from IE6 to IE8 by September 2009.
Government Car and Despatch Agency	Already use IE7, although a few users are still on IE6 for compatibility reasons—they will be upgraded as soon as compatibility issues resolved.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284886]

Chris Mole: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow MPs as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Information on the number of staff who have participated is not held centrally.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of a third runway at Heathrow on the Government's ability to meet the requirements of EU legislation for levels of *(a)* nitrogen dioxide and *(b)* particulate matter. [285515]

Paul Clark: Our assessment of the nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10}) impacts of adding a third runway at Heathrow was set out in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document and the relevant technical reports, published in November 2007.

National Express East Coast

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the capital value of National Express East Coast Ltd. [284695]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 644W.

Network Rail: Directors

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 611-12W, on Network Rail: directors, in what circumstances his Department may appoint directors to private companies. [284555]

Chris Mole: The only circumstances where the Department for Transport may appoint directors to private companies is where something is written in law or the constitution of a company which would permit the Department to appoint a director. The Secretary of State for Transport may appoint a special director to the Board of Network Rail at his discretion.

Railways

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage rail travel in off-peak hours. [284730]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport regulates certain rail fares, particularly where people have little alternative to rail to make necessary journeys (such as season tickets used by commuters). Regulated fares account for in excess of 60 per cent. of all rail journeys made.

Train operators are free to apply commercial pricing to unregulated fares, which means charging higher fares at peak times when trains are full but lower fares to price-sensitive passengers in the off-peak to attract additional passengers. This helps achieve value for money in terms of both passengers carried and subsidy required.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much revenue was taken from each charging category on each of the two Severn crossings in each of the last five years; [285578]

(2) how many vehicles in Category 3 used the Severn crossings in each month of each of the last five years. [285579]

Mr. Khan: Tolls are levied on the westbound carriageways only from England to Wales. The following table sets out the annual revenue on the Severn Crossing for each class of vehicle (charging category) from 2004-08:

£

	Total	*Cars*	*LGV's*	*HGV's*
2004	66,371,000	37,937,000	8,852,000	19,582,000
2005	69,499,000	40,121,000	9,457,000	19,921,000
2006	72,008,000	41,018,000	10,140,000	20,841,000
2007	76,101,000	43,137,000	11,025,000	21,939,000
2008	77,949,000	44,516,000	11,607,000	21,826,000

The following table sets out how many category 3 vehicles used the Severn Crossing—by each month and annually from 2004-08)

Number

	2008	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*
January	137,759	134,869	129,761	127,078	129,840
February	136,600	129,896	126,091	128,835	128,570
March	135,672	149,375	148,576	142,514	149,912
April	142,564	138,408	132,031	142,484	138,525
May	141,324	148,754	145,714	138,623	138,604
June	137,414	145,641	147,376	145,306	146,776

Number

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
July	144,900	151,450	143,295	142,417	148,518
August	129,931	146,676	143,308	140,714	139,502
September	138,264	141,487	142,566	143,872	147,489
October	142,618	154,104	148,308	143,056	144,250
November	128,216	151,385	149,910	146,799	148,896
December	119,414	126,566	126,594	127,921	132,820
Total	1,634,672	1,718,710	1,683,530	1,669,619	1,693,702

Speed Limits: Schools

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will encourage local highway authorities to adopt variable speed limits on roads past schools. [284806]

Paul Clark: Local highways authorities already have powers to introduce variable 20 mph speed limits on roads outside schools if they believe it appropriate to do so.

The Department for Transport guidance on setting local speed limits recommends local highways authorities consider introducing 20 mph speed limits, variable 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones in residential areas. This view is reinforced in the document "A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World" published in April 2009.

However, there are cost implications related to signing variable speed limits in accordance with regulations.

The Department is working with several local highway authorities to trial more cost effective signing which, if successful, will enable all local highway authorities to more easily introduce variable 20 mph speed limits outside schools.

Trams: Railways

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made on its tram-train pilot. [286060]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is in discussions with Northern and Network Rail about the operation of a tram-train trail on the Penistone line and expects to make an announcement in due course.

Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in respect of which of his Department's *(a)* projects and *(b)* budgets underspend is planned in order to provide funding for the proposals contained in the Building Britain's Future document. [284707]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is continually assessing risk in its programmes. Its current judgment is that it will be able to provide up to £350 million from underspends by the end of the financial year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence his Department holds on the effect of the ban on importation of wild birds into the EU on the number of reptiles imported into the EU since 2007. [284515]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are aware of reports that the number of reptiles being imported into the EU has increased since 2007, but we do not have access to EU-wide statistics to substantiate these reports.

Avian Influenza: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure the availability of avian vaccines in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza. [284101]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are currently reviewing our vaccine requirements in the event of vaccination being required as a control measure in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza. We expect to invite tenders on this shortly.

Central Science Laboratory: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff of the Central Science Laboratory in each of the last five years. [283517]

Dan Norris: Amounts paid in bonuses to staff in the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) in each of the last four years are listed in the following table. Data for 2009 are not available because on 1 April 2009 CSL became part of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

Bonus payments to CSL staff

	Directors	Senior managers	Specialist/Delivery managers	Executive support/Admin	Other
2005					
Total paid in bonuses (£)	28,806	39,238	65,840	8,157	23,869
Recipients	6	39	112	28	66
Average (£)	4,801	1,006	588	291	362
2006					
Total paid in bonuses (£)	36,192	56,492	77,279	11,708	26,739
Recipients	6	44	114	33	63

Bonus payments to CSL staff

	Directors	*Senior managers*	*Specialist/Delivery managers*	*Executive support/ Admin*	*Other*
Average (£)	6,032	1,284	678	355	424
2007					
Total paid in bonuses (£)	45,271	69,300	100,117	13,016	48,599
Recipients	6	50	127	38	110
Average (£)	7,545	1,386	788	343	442
2008					
Total paid in bonuses (£)	40,890	76,931	113,330	14,888	41,920
Recipients	6	50	130	34	96
Average (£)	6,815	1,539	872	438	437
2009[1]					
Total paid in bonuses (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Recipients	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Bonuses for 2009 are subject to the 2009 pay settlement which has not yet been agreed.

Source:

Individual pay records held on the ResourceLink payroll system.

Exmoor National Park: Public Appointments

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people applied for appointment to the committee of the Exmoor National Park as one of his appointments on the last occasion on which such appointments were made; what criteria were used to decide whom to appoint; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* job was of each person on the selection panel. [284405]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Five applications were received for the 2009 round of appointments to Exmoor national park authority.

The Secretary of State members are appointed to the national park authorities to reflect the national importance placed on national parks. Such members will consider strategic issues such as responsibility for conservation, recreation, planning, access, land management and resources issues, as well as reflecting both local and national interests.

The selection process followed the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointment (OCPA) guidelines. The selection panel members were Doug Hulyer (panel chair)—Natural England Board, Councillor John Dyke—chairman of Exmoor national park authority and Tony Swabe—OCPA independent assessor.

Floods: South West

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood defence schemes are under construction in the Wessex Water area; and how many such schemes were planned for this year in the capital funding programme for such schemes. [284403]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Within the Wessex area the Environment Agency has 20 flood defence schemes under way and has planned works at 14 other locations. Local authorities have work under way at Weston-super-Mare as well as work planned at Bristol Harbour for later in the year.

Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries (England) Order 2005

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking in respect of fishing vessels that do not comply with the provisions of the Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries (England) Order 2005; [284510]

(2) how many UK fishing vessels of 12 metres or more in length using gillnets or entangling nets comply with the provisions of the Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries (England) Order 2005 on the use of acoustic deterrents on nets. [284511]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK is committed to enforcing all aspects of Council Regulation 812/2004 and the provisions of the Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries (England) Order 2005 in order to minimise cetacean by-catch.

The Marine and Fisheries agency (MFA) monitor compliance through the inspection activities of the Royal Navy fishery protection squadron. In addition, the MFA conducts training courses for the fisheries protection squadron who undertake boarding at sea. This has led to increased industry awareness of cetacean by-catch issues.

The use of acoustic deterrent devices as specified under Council Regulation 812/2004 has been problematic for the UK and for other member states. UK fishing vessels have identified pinger deployment and safety issues during fishing operations. We reported our concerns to the European Commission and we have been given scientific dispensation to start a research programme to develop appropriate and effective pingers that are safe for our fishers to use.

The UK's research into acoustic deterrent devices is being carried out on behalf of DEFRA by the sea mammal research unit (SMRU). SMRU, in collaboration with SeaFish and the industry are currently testing a dolphin dissuasive device (DDD) and they are looking at the effects these devices may have on the population distribution of harbour porpoises. Initial results on the efficacy of these pingers are promising.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects an equality impact assessment of the location of the headquarters of the future Marine Management Organisation to be made. [284381]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The "initial" and "partial" phases of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) have already been completed on the relocation of the headquarters of the proposed new Marine Management Organisation. The final phase—which will see completion of the "full" EqIA—is currently in process and we still await the outcome of the location of a suitable office for the MMO on Tyneside. Subject to considerations around that however, we aim to finalise the EqIA by the end of August 2009.

Origin Marking: EC Countries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the introduction of country of origin labelling for all food products traded between EU member states. [284607]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no discussions at European Union level on country of origin labelling for foods traded between EU member states.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* pension entitlement is provided for each board member of the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [284928]

Dan Norris: This information is provided in the Waste and Resources Action Programme's Annual Report and Accounts, the latest copy of which is available on its website.

Water Charges

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of average level of domestic water rates in each region in each of the last 10 years. [284145]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the average water bill for each company in England and Wales for the past 10 years.

Average water and sewerage bill in 2009-10 prices

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Water and sewerage companies										
Anglian	330	328	328	332	335	352	363	381	387	393
Dwr Cymru	345	342	344	338	339	365	377	390	399	404
North West	292	282	285	293	317	325	344	361	369	377
Northumbrian (incl. Essex and Suffolk)										
Northumbrian	257	252	250	251	275	289	296	302	300	298
Essex and Suffolk	138	138	138	138	152	161	164	170	169	168
Severn Trent	258	257	253	258	263	283	294	297	299	305
South West	404	392	408	406	431	455	484	506	499	489
Southern	307	303	302	305	303	336	349	353	361	370
Thames	246	248	247	246	247	286	291	299	297	295
Wessex	313	306	306	319	332	359	375	395	405	413
Yorkshire (incl. York)	272	271	271	280	288	302	314	319	327	330
Yorkshire	272	272	272	[1]—	—	—	—	—	—	—
York	116	112	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water only companies										
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	128	123	122	125	130	144	146	146	142	136
Bristol	131	132	133	133	129	147	149	152	156	157
Cambridge	116	116	113	110	109	121	120	123	116	116
Dee Valley	138	134	130	129	126	131	127	124	130	130
Folkestone and Dover	152	153	160	165	168	174	181	187	188	182
Mid Kent	149	153	156	158	154	168	163	164	163	171
Portsmouth	96	94	93	92	91	91	90	91	92	92
South East	152	156	153	153	154	179	166	173	169	169
South Staffs	111	109	107	106	107	116	120	122	123	123
Sutton and East Surrey	149	150	154	150	151	167	169	169	164	161
Tendring Hundred	170	174	178	186	189	190	183	172	178	176
Three Valleys (incl. North Surrey)	136	137	138	138	141	158	157	160	166	166
Three Valleys	137	138	139	[1]—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Surrey	132	129	132	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Companies merged. Only submitted one principal statement.

Water: Meters

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to promote the installation of water meters in newly-built dwellings. [283945]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In general, newly-built houses are fitted with water meters.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed by water supply companies in homes in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last three years. [284559]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, does not hold data on how many meters are installed in individual constituencies.

The following figures show how many water meters Three Valleys Water installed in its water supply area in the last three years. This includes the constituency of Hemel Hempstead.

Three Valleys Water

	Number of meters installed (households)
2006-07	40,933
2007-08	30,351
2008-09	28,247

Wessex Flood Defence Committee

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much remuneration the chairman of the Wessex Flood Defence Committee received in each of the last three years; and how much he received in expenses *(a)* in total and *(b)* for overseas visits in each of those years. [284404]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the salary and expenses of the chairman of the Wessex Flood Defence Committee over the last three years. There have been no claims for overseas visits on behalf of the Environment Agency.

		£
	Salary	*Expenses*
2006-07	16,397.00	3,045.48
2007-08	16,823.00	3,485.89
2008-09	17,244.00	4,173.20

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Alan Sugar

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Prime Minister on what date Sir Alan Sugar accepted the role of the Government's Enterprise Champion; and on what date he was officially appointed to that position. [285301]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 18 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 452W. I also refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 6 July 2009. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19941

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Bloody Sunday inquiry has cost to date. [285189]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry to the end of May 2009 is £188 million, including legal costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many centres for victims of domestic violence have opened in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [282287]

Paul Goggins: There are 12 refuges for victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Ireland. These are managed by the Women's Aid Federation for Northern Ireland and are funded by the Department for Social Development (DSD) through the "Supporting People" initiative. In addition DSD fund the "Sanctuary Scheme" which provides security measures for women who wish to remain in their current home.

While none of these refuges opened in the last 12 months, I announced in December 2008 a capital investment of £350,000 to resource the final phase of refurbishment to the Women's Resource Centre (The Naomi Centre) in Ballymena. This centre will provide services to more than 2,000 victims and their families every year and was officially opened on 30 June.

Government also fund a 24-hour freephone Domestic Violence Helpline (managed by Women's Aid) for all victims of domestic violence. Respect who provide a phone line for perpetrators wishing to change their behaviour also receive Government funding for this service.

Government are also committed to introducing Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) throughout Northern Ireland by autumn this year.

Firearms

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions were secured in Northern Ireland of a person using an illegal firearm in the course of the crime in 2008. [285505]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested as the court databases do not contain background information in relation to offences committed; for instance, it is not possible to specify the number of convictions where an illegal firearm was used in relation to murder.

It is possible, however, to provide conviction statistics for firearm-related offences as specified by firearms legislation, including those that relate to the possession, hiring, distribution or supply of firearms. In 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), there were 56 such convictions.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Northern Ireland Compensation Agency

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the backlog of outstanding claims to the Compensation Agency in Northern Ireland to be cleared. [285506]

Paul Goggins: The Agency does not have a backlog of claims. The processing of all claims begins as soon as they are received. The Compensation Agency seeks continually to improve its service to applicants by reducing the time taken to process claims, as required by its Framework Document.

The following table shows the Agency's progress.

	New claims received	*Claims in hand at start of year*	*Claims in hand at end of year*
2004-05	7,797	23,687	17,861
2005-06	7,424	17,613	12,841
2006-07	6,317	13,297	10,790
2007-08	5,655	10,814	8,771
2008-09	6,130	7,957	7,378

Note:
The figures for claims in hand include claims under review or where an appeal has been lodged.

Offensive Weapons

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many assaults in which a knife was involved were recorded in Northern Ireland in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [286000]

(2) how many people under the age of 18 years were the victims of crime involving a knife in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [286001]

(3) how many crimes involving a knife were recorded in each local authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [286002]

Paul Goggins: These data are collated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland: Equality

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the outcome was of the screening workshops held recently under the Public Prosecution Service equality scheme in Northern Ireland. [285503]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Calor Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to publish the report on the escape of liquefied petroleum gas on the Canvey Island Calor Gas site in October 2008. [285502]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will not be publishing a report into its investigation into the release of liquefied petroleum gas at Calor Gas Ltd.'s Canvey Island site in October 2008. This investigation is still ongoing. HSE does not routinely publish incident investigation reports but, as previously undertaken, will arrange to brief the hon. Member as soon as this is appropriate.

Disability Living Allowance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of claims for disability living allowance in respect of young people with autism have been awarded in each year since 2001. [284260]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* In October 2008 the set of codes used to record the disabling condition for disability living allowance changed. Primary and Secondary codes replaced codes for Care and Mobility and more fine detail was introduced with respect to disabling condition. Prior to October 2008, there were fewer than 50 categories for disabling condition, but now there are over 500. This information is available for statistical analysis from November 2008.

However, codes for existing disability living allowance claimants were not updated, so the number of cases with new codes is extremely small compared to the total numbers in receipt of disability living allowance. It is, therefore, not yet possible to produce an estimate of the total number of people claiming disability living allowance with a main disabling condition of autism.

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest estimate is of the budget for phase one of the Flexible New Deal. [266117]

Jim Knight: Expenditure on the flexible new deal is dependant on both the actual numbers of starts on provision, and the success of providers in getting jobseekers into work. Performance offers are subject to on going commercial negotiation.

Flexible new deal forms part of the support for long-term unemployed budget. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to her on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 158W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Astley Park

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the application by Chorley borough council for a grant for modernisation work at Astley Park in Chorley was received by the Heritage Lottery Fund; how much funding was *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded; and on what date the grant was awarded.[1] [284556]

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[1] *[Official Report, 14 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 37MC.]*

Mr. Simon: Advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund is that it received the application by Chorley borough council for a grant for modernisation work at Astley Park in December 2004. The monetary value of grant applied for was £2,004,000, and the monetary value of grant awarded was £2,004,000. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the grant to Chorley borough council on 1 April 2005. Chorley borough council received a grant increase of £373,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund on 27 September 2007, bringing the total grant award to £2,377,000.

Big Lottery Fund: Campaign for Better Transport

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Big Lottery Fund has allocated to the Campaign for Better Transport; and for what projects such funding was allocated. [284091]

Mr. Simon: The Big Lottery Fund has informed me that it has provided no funding to the Campaign for Better Transport.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government have allocated to ensuring good digital radio signal reception in all areas of the UK in each of the next three years. [284934]

Mr. Simon: As set out in the recently published Digital Britain White Paper, the Government recognise that building out a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) infrastructure which meets the needs of broadcasters, multiplex operators and listeners, including improving the quality of the signal, will require additional investment. However, the Digital Radio Upgrade programme, alongside the proposals on co-location and licence-renewals, will offer significant cost-savings for commercial broadcasters, some of which must support investment in improving coverage.

In areas where the BBC's need to deliver universal access is not matched by the economic realities of the local commercial market, the BBC will need to bear a significant portion of the costs. The full cost cannot be left to the BBC alone. It is our intention that where possible the BBC and national commercial multiplex operator should work together to ensure that any new transmitters benefit both BBC and commercial multiplexes. Partnerships between the BBC and commercial local multiplex operators will be even more important at a local DAB level.

We will work with the BBC, transmission providers and Ofcom to agree a plan for the extension and improvement of local DAB coverage, and where the cost would most appropriately fall.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letters of 7 May and 15 June 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on the Friends of Kempley Churches, reference FD3057. [285073]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 7 July 2009.

National Skills Academies: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the contribution of the proposed National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural Skills in Thurrock to the London 2012 Olympic events including training and technical support; and if he will make a statement. [282467]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 29 June 2009]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding the Creative and Cultural National Skills Academy (NSA).

London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games' Culture and Ceremonies teams have had informal discussions with the NSA as part of the organising committee's initial work on workforce needs for 2012, but no decisions have been made on the academy's involvement.

However, the NSA offers a great opportunity to engage with Olympic events as a training and technical support venue for the opening, closing and medal ceremonies. Regional involvement in the development of a cultural Olympic legacy is paramount to raising the aspirations for young people in the region.

Tourism: Disabled

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to make tourist attractions more accessible to disabled people. [284372]

Barbara Follett: My Department works closely with the tourism industry to ensure that there is good access for disabled people at attractions throughout the United Kingdom. As part of the quality assessment scheme, tourism business in the UK are required to prepare an access statement describing their current services and facilities so that disabled people can decide if they meet their particular needs. Accessibility best practice is now incorporated into the new Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) criteria and its quality guidance booklet.

In addition the DCMS has set up the Accessible Tourism Stakeholders Forum to help to deliver improvements in this area which was a central theme in our Tourism Strategy for 2012. VisitEngland has recently published "Easy Does It", a guide for setting out how tourism businesses can achieve simple, low cost changes to benefit themselves and their disabled customers.

Most recently DCMS, along with VisitEngland, VisitScotland, VisitWales, and other public bodies, has supported the launch of Open Britain, a definitive guide book and website for people with disabilities and special access requirements.

JUSTICE

British Constitution: Ministerial Statements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 795-99, on constitutional renewal, when he will set out further plans to look at broadening the application of freedom of information to include additional bodies; and if he will make a statement. [285555]

Mr. Wills: We will publish our full response to the consultation on designating additional public authorities under the Freedom of Information Act through a section 5 order by the summer.

Driving: Convictions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many drivers were convicted of driving while exceeding the blood alcohol limit with levels of alcohol of *(a)* 80 to 90, *(b)* 91 to 100, *(c)* 101 to 110, *(d)* 111 to 120, *(e)* 121 to 130, *(f)* 131 to 140, *(g)* 141 to 150, *(h)* 151 to 160, *(i)* 161 to 170, *(j)* 171 to 180, *(k)* 181 to 190, *(l)* 191 to 200 and *(m)* over 200mg per 100ml of blood in the last year for which figures are available; [284803]

(2) how many drivers have been convicted of *(a)* driving under the influence of alcohol with a level of alcohol in excess of 80mg per 100ml of blood and *(b)* failing to provide a specimen of blood in each year since 1980. [284805]

Claire Ward: Available information on the number of findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by offence type, in England and Wales for the years 1994 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the table. Data held centrally on the Court Proceedings Database by the Ministry of Justice do not identify the amount by which the prescribed limit was exceeded.

Information for the years prior to 1994 can be found on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website under "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables". See following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/motor1.html

Number of findings of guilt for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by offence type, 1994 to 2007[1], England and Wales

Number of offences

Offence type	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)	1,899	1,809	1,865	1,930	1,939	2,005	1,826
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	73,733	77,115	81,046	84,929	78,799	74,427	71,214
Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	8,192	8,068	7,712	8,112	7,359	8,091	8,232
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)	368	365	376	408	416	415	388
In charge of motor vehicle with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,670	1,827	1,887	2,120	2,340	2,108	1,938
In charge of motor vehicle and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	666	501	472	489	517	592	741
Failing to provide specimen for initial breath test	3,172	2,821	2,348	2,214	1,746	1,724	1,490
Failing to allow specimens of blood to be subjected to laboratory test	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unfit to drive through drink (impairment)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unfit to drive through drugs (impairment)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink (impairment)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drugs (impairment)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	89,700	92,505	95,705	100,202	93,116	89,361	85,829

Offence type	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)	1,937	2,129	2,264	1,552	1,093	918	843
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	70,091	74,499	77,712	80,383	78,108	76,027	74,885
Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	8,208	8,900	9,185	9,188	9,361	8,991	9,096
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)	404	487	449	457	301	226	213
In charge of motor vehicle with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	2,134	2,280	1,886	1,779	1,882	1,760	1,585
In charge of motor vehicle and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	638	891	967	1,070	983	916	921
Failing to provide specimen for initial breath test	1,310	1,302	1,240	1,182	902	770	572
Failing to allow specimens of blood to be subjected to laboratory test	n/a	n/a	[2]2	5	13	12	12
Unfit to drive through drink (impairment)	n/a	n/a	[3]n/a	348	530	479	473
Unfit to drive through drugs (impairment)	n/a	n/a	[3]n/a	203	363	414	383
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink (impairment)	n/a	n/a	[3]n/a	56	120	136	209
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drugs (impairment)	n/a	n/a	[3]n/a	15	29	26	29
Total	84,472	90,488	93,702	96,238	93,717	92,671	89,223

n/a = Not available

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Authorised under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002, s.56 and Transport and Works Act 1992 as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s.52 which came into force in July 2002.

[3] Prior to 2004 data were published covering both drink and drugs offences combined as they could not reliably be distinguished separately.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Human Rights Joint Committee

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the Ninth Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of Session 2006-07, The Meaning of Public Authority under the Human Rights Act HC 410; for what reasons he has not yet responded to the report; and if he will make a statement. [285534]

Mr. Wills: My noble Friend the Baroness Ashton of Upholland, then Minister for Human Rights, wrote to the hon. Member following the publication of the report in question. She explained that the Government could not at that point fully address the issues surrounding section 6 of the Human Rights Act until the implications of the judgment in YL *v.* Birmingham city council were known. The Government have since legislated to overturn the principal effects of that judgment through section 145 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, and are also committed to consulting further on the scope of the Human Rights Act. We believe those of the issues raised in the Joint Committee's report that remain relevant following these developments can best be addressed in that context.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require headquarters of political parties to disclose their spending in each constituency; and if he will make a statement. [285227]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no such plans.

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 imposes requirements on political parties to keep accounting records showing sums of money received and expended by the party, and to publish annual statements of accounts. As to form and content, the 2000 Act indicates that these statements of accounts should comply with requirements which may be prescribed by regulations made by the Electoral Commission. Since 2008, the commission has been working with political parties to agree standard requirements for statements of accounts. The commission has stated that it will continue to discuss the issue with the parties, with the aim of achieving improved transparency while imposing the minimum necessary burden on parties and their staff, many of whom are volunteers.

The Government believe that any accounting requirements on parties should take account of both the need for transparency and for any requirements to be both reasonable and proportionate.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* length and *(b)* proportion of the sentence served by each offender sentenced for (i) violence against the person, (ii) sexual offences and (iii) robbery was served in a category (A) A, (B) B, (C) C and (D) D prison in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available. [284181]

Claire Ward: The average sentence length and proportion of time served for all prisoners discharged from determinate sentences, for the three offence groups requested, in the years 1999 to 2007 are in the following tables.

Average sentence length—adults

Months

Average sentence length	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*
1999	17	39	49
2000	17	40	49
2001	17	43	50
2002	17	45	47
2003	17	45	46
2004	17	48	47
2005	16	48	48
2006	15	45	46
2007	16	50	48

Proportion of time served—adults

Percentage

Proportion of sentenced served	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*
1999	57	62	60
2000	57	64	60
2001	57	64	61
2002	57	64	60
2003	56	65	59
2004	57	65	61
2005	57	65	63
2006	60	65	67
2007	62	66	69

Average sentence length—young offenders

Months

Average sentence length	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*
1999	11	21	23
2000	11	21	23
2001	10	22	21
2002	11	21	22
2003	12	22	23
2004	11	18	23
2005	13	29	34
2006	12	24	23
2007	12	27	22

Proportion of time served—young offenders

Percentage

Proportion of sentenced served	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*
1999	55	57	55
2000	55	60	54
2001	55	58	54
2002	53	60	53
2003	51	61	51
2004	52	61	52
2005	53	63	53
2006	54	60	53
2007	56	61	55

Data before 1999 are not available.

Data relating to time served in each prison are not held centrally and can not be obtained without exceeding cost limits.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

SCOTLAND

Scottish Devolution Commission

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support the UK Government has made available to support the work of the Calman Commission. [285582]

Ann McKechin: The UK Government provided around £500,000 for the commission's work, which concluded on 15 June 2009 with the publication of the final report. The report which was widely welcomed across Scotland was presented jointly to the Scottish Parliament and the UK Government as co-sponsors.

During the commission's consideration the UK Government provided evidence and factual information to assist the commission with its deliberations. Both the Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament and the UK Government also provided resources such as committee rooms and technical support for some of the commission's oral evidence sessions.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland indicated in his written ministerial statement to the House on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 5WS, the Government warmly welcome this report.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on Parliament: internet, when the new area of the Parliament website focusing on Parliament's heritage will be launched; whether it will include audio files; and if he will make a statement. [285497]

Nick Harvey: The new area of Parliament's website focusing on Parliament's heritage was launched on 2 July 2009 and can be found at:

www.parliament.uk/livingheritage

Relevant audio content will be added to this area over the coming weeks either as embedded files or as links to audio content elsewhere on the Parliament website. For example a podcast about the suffragettes is currently being produced and will be published in the near future.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Invincible class aircraft carriers can be serviced from HM Naval Base Faslane. [284820]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The feasibility of deep maintenance upkeep work, such as refits and docking periods, being carried out to the Invincible Class aircraft carriers at HM Naval Base Clyde was considered as part of the Naval Base Review. It was assessed that as the berths at Faslane were designed to accommodate submarines further work would be required to make them suitable to accommodate the heavier aircraft carriers. In addition, there are insufficient waterfront facilities, such as for equipment storage and ship's company living accommodation, available to allow deep maintenance work to be carried out there. However, other maintenance work such as that carried out onboard the ship by its company and which does not require the vessel to be berthed for a significant period of time, can be carried out at the naval base.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the planned Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers will be based at HM Naval Base Faslane. [284821]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Neither of the two aircraft carriers in the Queen Elizabeth Class will be base ported at Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde. As the then Minister for the Armed Forces, the right hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) announced on 2 July 2002, *Official Report*, column 232W, both aircraft carriers are to be based at HMNB Portsmouth.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* chicken, *(b)* beef, *(c)* lamb and *(d)* pork supplied to the British armed forces was sourced from within the British Isles in the latest period for which information is available. [284818]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. These two reports covering the years 2006-08 can be found at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by MOD has gone up from 43 per cent. in 2006-07 to 59 per cent. in 2007-08. We expect to publish a third report at the end of 2009.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost is of fitting a kitchen in a service family accommodation unit under his Department's upgrade programme. [284604]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the average cost of installing a kitchen in a service family accommodation property, as the cost will depend on a number of variables. For example, not only does the size of kitchen and amount of work required vary from property to property (plumbing, wiring, plastering, tiling, etc), but the cost will be dependent on the number of properties included in a programme on any given site.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie) of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 380W, on armed forces: housing, for which geographical area each grading board is responsible. [284603]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Grading boards are convened at brigade or unit level rather than by geographical area and therefore the information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation at each location in Scotland are at each grade. [284819]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At each of the following locations in Scotland, as at December 2008 single living accommodation (SLA) was at the following grade, an assessment of the condition of both the accommodation and 'scale' (as defined in Joint Service Publication 315 which is available to view on the Defence Estates website:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/jsp/jsp315/volume4/

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		*Total SLA bed-spaces at each location*
Location	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	
Craigiehall, Edinburgh	—		—		—		70	100	70
Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh	—		—		420	100	—		420
HMS Neptune, Faslane	1,565	85	—		281	15	—		1,846
Fort George, Inverness	—		19	4	122	26	329	70	470

Location	*Grade 1* *No.*	*%*	*Grade 2* *No.*	*%*	*Grade 3* *No.*	*%*	*Grade 4* *No.*	*%*	*Total SLA bed-spaces at each location*
Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Penicuik	418	100	—		—		—		418
RAF Kinloss	224	47	248	53	—		—		472
RAF Leuchars	—		141	17	331	41	345	42	817
RAF Lossiemouth	95	11	706	81	66	8	—		867
Redford Barracks, Edinburgh	58	11	113	21	282	53	83	15	536
RM Condor	83	9	300	32	566	59	—		949
HMS Caledonia, Rosyth	—		—		28	6	416	94	444
The Castle, Edinburgh	—		—		—		92	100	92
Total SLA bed-spaces at each grade	2,443	33	1,527	21	2,096	28	1,335	18	7,401

Details of service family accommodation (SFA) cannot be provided on the same basis as for SLA. However, SFA properties in each of the Department's housing areas in Scotland are at the following Standard for Condition:

Housing area	*S1fC* *No.*	*%*	*S2fC* *No.*	*%*	*S3fC* *No.*	*%*	*S4fC* *No.*	*%*	*Total SFA properties in each area*
Scotland East (inc. RM Condor, Edinburgh, RAF Leuchars)	1,364	98	32	2	—	—	—	—	1,396
Scotland West (inc. Glasgow, Paisley, RN Faslane)	664	96	26	4	—	—	—	—	690
Scotland North (inc. RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Kinloss, Inverness)	1,092	96	44	4	5	[1]—	—	—	1,141
Total SFA properties at each standard	3,120	97	102	3	5	[1]—	—	—	3,227

[1] Less than 1 per cent.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reported break-ins to service personnel accommodation there have been in Scotland in each year since 2004. [285563]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress in respect of the cut and sew contract for army uniforms; and if he will make a statement. [284643]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cut and sew contract tendering process began in April 2009, with nearly 50 companies expressing interest. A pre-qualification exercise is currently under way and the contract is scheduled to be awarded later this year.

Defence Council: Defence Ministerial Council

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the *(a)* Defence Council and *(b)* Defence Ministerial Committee has met in the last three years. [284517]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Council has met once, on 18 October 2006. The Defence Ministerial Committee was established in 2008 and has met on the following dates: 20 May 2008, 25 June 2008, 17 September 2008, 13 November 2008, 17 December 2008, 4 March 2009 and 3 June 2009. This information is available on the MOD website found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/DefenceManagement/

Defence: Procurement

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for implementation of the European Defence Agency code of conduct on offsets; and if he will make a statement. [285009]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The European Defence Agency (EDA) code of conduct on offsets came into effect on 1 July 2009. A reporting and monitoring system, which also became operational on 1 July 2009, will be used to manage the practical implementation of the code, covering offset agreements signed from this date onwards. 25 of the 26 EDA participating member states have subscribed to the code of conduct on offsets and its reporting arrangements. In addition, Norway has subscribed to the code of conduct under its administrative arrangement with the EDA.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has any contracts with the think tank Demos. [279511]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information held centrally indicates that the Ministry of Defence has no current contracts with the think tank Demos.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information databases his Department *(a)* maintain and *(b)* uses which do not contain personal information. [284396]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operational sorties have been flown by each aircraft type deployed to *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other locations in each year since 2003. [284537]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Decorations: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many families in Crosby constituency he estimates will receive the Elizabeth Cross in 2009. [284947]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is estimated that the next of kin (NOK) of some 8,000 armed forces personnel, who have died on operations, or as a result of an act of terrorism, from 1 January 1948 to date, will be eligible to receive the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll. The eligibility criteria and how to apply were outlined by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth) in his written ministerial statement of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 18-21WS. It is not possible for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to determine how many NOK will actually apply, when they may choose to apply and where they live. Therefore it is not possible to identify how many families in the Crosby constituency will receive the Elizabeth Cross in 2009.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a sale site of RAF Lyneham would be subject to the Crichel Down rules. [285416]

Mr. Kevan Jones: RAF Lyneham was acquired under 61 conveyances, between the years 1940 and 1987, and the whole site will be subject to the Crichel Down Rules. If the site is declared surplus, Defence Estates will consider the Crichel Down position to determine whether, in certain circumstances, any land is to be offered back to former owners or their successors in title. This procedure will have to be finalised prior to any marketing of the site.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate Defence Estates have made of the monetary value of a vacated RAF Lyneham. [285417]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not our practice to make public any estimate of the value of disposal sites as to do so could prejudice bids for the site. However, Defence Estates sells its surplus land and property in accordance with Treasury Guidelines (Managing Public Money) which requires us to get the best price reasonably obtainable (i.e. market value).

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of decontaminating the site of RAF Lyneham. [285418]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No estimate of the cost of decontaminating RAF Lyneham has yet been made. A Land Quality Assessment will only be commissioned once the site has been formally declared surplus.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many days on average *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [283448]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 2 July 2009]:* Data on the time taken to pay invoices are recorded in terms of the proportions paid within 10 days and 30 days. The figures for the Government Olympic Executive for November 2008 to May 2009 (latest available) are given in the following table.

	Total number of invoices	*Number paid within 30 days*	*Percentage*	*Number paid within 10 days*	*Percentage*
November 2008	55	54	98	43	78
December 2008	63	63	100	54	86
January 2009	63	63	100	55	87
February 2009	54	54	100	53	98
March 2009	71	71	100	68	96
April 2009	81	80	99	73	90
May 2009	56	56	100	54	96

Invoices submitted to my Office as Minister for the Olympics are processed by the Government Olympic Executive and are, therefore, included in the figures given here.

The Executive complies with the Government's policy of paying its suppliers as soon as possible and from 1 December 2008 aims to achieve all payments within 10 days.

Olympic Games 2012: Ashford Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest assessment is of the legacy for Ashford constituency for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [283000]

Tessa Jowell: I was delighted to award Kent county council (KCC) a Beacon Award for its work on Olympic and Paralympic legacy earlier this year. This award recognised the council's clear vision and determined approach to games legacy and its programme of bespoke 2012 projects across the county, and Ashford is part of the supporting county partnership.

The Kent Co-ordinating Group for the 2012 games, on which Ashford borough council is represented, plays a key role in this partnership and aims to derive the maximum benefits from the games for the county. It has set up nine task groups to co-ordinate action across Kent on: arts; communications and media; economic development and regeneration; schools and young people; sport; tourism; transport; and volunteering.

Kent has already made good progress with its Olympic and Paralympic legacy in these areas through initiatives such as the Kent School Games which in 2008 had 30,000 participants from over 500 schools including those in Ashford. In terms of Paralympic legacy, KCC has increased its disability sport associate officers network to cover 15 of the 19 summer Paralympics sports and two of the four winter sports. Kent also has the highest sign up in the South East (SE) of England for the Get Set School Programme and businesses registered for Competefor, the London 2012 brokerage system. Steps have also been taken to raise awareness of the importance of tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses to the Kent economy in the lead up to the games through initiatives such as the third successful 'Kent's Big Day Out' event to be held each year in the run up to the games. This year's event held on 28 March 2009 saw over 17,000 vouchers offered to participants for free entry to 143 venues across the county including in Ashford.

It is also pleasing to see that there are a broad range of initiatives and programmes across the SE associated with building a legacy from the games. The SE currently has nine projects that have been awarded the Inspire Mark of which four are in Kent. There were around 70 events held in the SE during Open Weekend which launched the Cultural Olympiad in September 2008, of which, around 10 were in Kent. To celebrate London officially becoming host to the 2012 games handover events were held in the SE on 24 August 2008. Ashford played a significant role in these celebrations hosting a Free Swim day to mark the raising of the Olympic Handover Flag.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the performance of subcontractors not directly contracted by the Olympic Delivery Authority is monitored against the balanced scorecard criteria for procurement. [283903]

Tessa Jowell: Subcontractor performance is managed and monitored by the main contractors to the ODA. The ODA requires main contractors to apply good procurement practice as part of a rigorous supply chain management; however, the precise methods of subcontractor performance management are for main contractors to both define and implement.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on poppy cultivation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [284144]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is supporting the Afghan Government in the implementation of its national drug control strategy. The strategy is a comprehensive long-term approach towards countering narcotics. It provides 'carrots', including the promotion and support for alternative livelihoods and the building of Afghan institutions and 'sticks' through law enforcement actions such as targeted poppy eradication and interdiction.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the UN Secretary-General on his recent visit to Burma, with particular reference to the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. [285504]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discuss Burma regularly with the UN Secretary-General. The Prime Minister most recently spoke to Ban Ki-Moon on 21 June 2009, prior to his visit to Burma, and they may speak again at the G8 summit. The Foreign Secretary is seeking to identify an early opportunity to speak to the UN Secretary-General about the visit and the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi.

BBC External Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the BBC World Service has received from his Department through grant in aid in each of the last three years. [284459]

Chris Bryant: The BBC World Service has received the following grant in aid funding over the last three years:

	£ million
2008-09	265
2007-08	255
2006-07	239.5

Burma

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department will next review UK economic sanctions against Burma; and if he will make a statement. [285344]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK pursues sanctions against the Burmese regime as part of a wider EU Common Position. Sanctions are renewed annually in April, but the EU has repeatedly made clear its readiness to review, amend or reinforce existing sanctions on the basis of developments on the ground. On 19 June 2009, EU leaders made clear that the EU would respond to a failure to release Aung San Suu Kyi with additional targeted measures.

Departmental Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK gross domestic product *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by his Department in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [284025]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* The 1997-98 appropriation accounts for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) show £2,924,205,000 as the net supply grant, which is the total of cash then voted by Parliament, of which £2,871,037,000 was spent. Against a money gross domestic product (GDP) of £843,145,000,000 for 1997-98, the FCO parliamentary supply figure represents 0.347 per cent. of GDP and the corresponding spend represents 0.341 per cent.

However, it should be noted that the appropriation accounts for 1997-98 include £1.8 billion of supply and expenditure for what is now the Department for International Development. This is the largest of the various machinery of government and public expenditure measurement changes that occurred between 1997-98 and 2008-09 which make comparisons of spending figures between the two financial years difficult.

The 2008-09 resource accounts for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office show a net cash requirement of £2,171,707,000, which is the total amount of cash voted by Parliament, of which £2,072,002,000 was spent. Against a money GDP of £1,432,148,000,000 for 2008-09, the Foreign and Commonwealth office parliamentary supply figure represents 0.152 per cent. of GDP and the corresponding spend represents 0.145 per cent.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285015]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has already started the process of updating its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6.

Departmental Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of his Department's staff deployed in each region of Iraq *(a)* have been trained in each year since 2003 and *(b)* are being trained in each local Iraqi language. [283552]

Chris Bryant: Since 2004, 58 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff have studied Modern Standard Arabic and one Sorani Kurdish before being deployed in Iraq. Currently there are eight staff studying Modern Standard Arabic who are due to be deployed to Iraq later this year or next. Since 2004, 323 FCO civil servants have been deployed to Iraq. There are currently 35 staff there.

We only started to hold management information about language skills centrally in 2004. Our system records those who have passed exams on completion of language courses funded by the FCO, so may not include those who did not take an examination, those whose acquisition of the language was not the result of class-based instruction, or whose studies were not funded by the FCO.

Diplomatic Missions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 25WS, on diplomatic missions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter on outstanding business rate bills sent to diplomatic missions on 25 March 2009. [283915]

Chris Bryant: Yes. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Embassy Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East, (Mr. Ellwood) of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 821W, on embassy closures, which *(a)* UK High Commissions and Embassies and *(b)* other UK diplomatic posts have closed in each year since 2007. [284024]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 3 July 2009]:* Since 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has closed three high commission offices in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (in 2007), St. John's, Antigua and St. George's, Grenada (both in 2008). Our high commissioner in Barbados remains accredited to all three countries.

The FCO has also closed its consulate in Nagoya, Japan (in 2007) and its trade office in Aleppo, Syria (also 2007). The British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei closed its Southern Taiwan office in Kaohsiung in April 2009.

During the same period, the FCO has opened embassy offices in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo; Juba, Sudan; and a British Interests Section in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The FCO continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to the benefit of the British taxpayer.

Iran

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on terrorist organisations alleged to have been *(a)* funded and *(b)* supported by the Government of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [285474]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Due to the sensitive nature of the reporting concerned, we are unable to comment on this matter in detail.

However, we have long had serious concerns about the support that Iran provides in the form of funding, training and arms supplies that are undermining peace in the Middle East through violence. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. We hope that Iran will instead give political and diplomatic support to the Governments of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Palestinian Authority in their attempts to build institutions and improve security.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iran about their alleged *(a)* arming and *(b)* funding of Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [285483]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Tehran raised the issue of Iranian support for Hamas at a meeting at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 January 2009. Our embassy also translated my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's Statement on Gaza, 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 21, into Farsi, circulated it to journalists and placed it on the Embassy's Farsi language website.

The UK would like to see Iran making a positive contribution to creating a secure, stable and prosperous middle east. But its current behaviour is a cause for serious concern for us and others. Iran needs to work with the international community and its regional neighbours to restore confident in its intentions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months at the United Nations about the alleged (i) arming and (ii) funding of Hamas by Iran; and if he will make a statement. [285484]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have longstanding serious concerns about the support that Iran provides in the form of funding, training and arms supplies to groups which are undermining peace in the middle east through violence, including Hamas. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. We regularly call on Iran to play a constructive role towards peace in the middle east, including through giving political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian authority in its attempts to build institutions and improve security.

The UK-led UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1860 of 8 January 2009 is clear in its call to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms into Gaza. We continue to push for the full implementation of UNSCR 1860. The UK is at the forefront of counter-smuggling efforts, with officials attending a June meeting in Ottawa, which followed-up the 13 February 2009 London conference on tackling arms smuggling into Gaza.

Iran: Elections

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of Iranian Members of Parliament who boycotted the election victory party of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad; and if he will make a statement. [285557]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of several unconfirmed reports that many Iranian MPs did not attend President Ahmadinejad's election victory party; however we have not seen any credible reports concerning numbers nor why they did not attend.

Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel about freedom of worship for all faiths in Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [285543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK attaches great importance to guaranteeing access to Jerusalem and freedom of worship there for those of all faiths. The UK continues to support a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and a new Palestinian state and guaranteed freedom of worship for all.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months at the United Nations to seek to prevent (i) weapons and (ii) funds from the Government of Iran being sent to terrorist groups in (A) Afghanistan, (B) Iraq, (C) Gaza and (D) Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [285475]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to take specific actions at the UN at this time. However, the UK led the way at the UN to achieve UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which makes clear the need to combat the smuggling of weapons through the tunnels into Gaza. We continue to push for full implementation of this resolution.

We have serious concerns about Iranian support for Hezbollah. Iran provides Hezbollah with significant financial resources, military equipment and training. Arms supplies to Hezbollah are contrary to the arms embargo established by UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

We have long-standing concerns about the support that Iran provides in the form of funding, arms and training to Palestinian Rejectionist Groups, including Hamas. These groups undermine peace in the Middle East through violence. We hope that Iran will instead give political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian Authority in its attempts to build institutions and improve security.

We understand that members of al-Qaeda and affiliated groups have used, and possibly continue to use, Iran as a transit route for arms smuggling. We have urged Iran to act against this and co-operate fully with the international community against terrorism, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

The UK would like to see Iran making a positive contribution to creating a secure, stable and prosperous Middle East, free from violence. But its current behaviour is a cause for serious concern for us and others. Iran needs to work with the international community and its regional neighbours to restore confidence in its intentions.

North Korea: Diplomatic Service

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many North Korean nationals were engaged at the British Embassy in Pyongyang in each of the last 10 years; what level of security clearance such employees must pass before engagement; and whether his Department has carried out any investigations into activities of such staff which are incompatible with their terms and conditions of employment in that period. [285280]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An average of six North Korean nationals have worked as support staff at our embassy in Pyongyang every year since it opened in 2001. They are not employed directly by the embassy, but are seconded from the General Services Bureau, a department of the North Korean government. Consequently, they are not security cleared and do not work with, or have access to, any sensitive information.

Overseas Missions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much each British mission overseas owes in parking fines to the authorities in each country. [284614]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Pakistan: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the sexual abuse of women in Pakistan. [284980]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, My hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), visited Pakistan in February 2009 and met Sherry Rehman, Pakistan's former Minister for Women. She raised concerns about violence against women in the face of growing violent extremism in Pakistan and also expressed UK support to help the Government of Pakistan counter the impact of violent extremism on women's rights. Additionally, she stressed the need to take forward the recommendations made by the EU Election Observation Mission in 2008 to promote women's participation in Pakistan's parliament and public life.

Our high commission in Islamabad works closely with the EU Special Representative and Human Rights Working Group of the EU member states in Pakistan to promote women's rights in Pakistan. With the EU, we have issued biannual demarches calling on the Government of Pakistan to review discriminatory legislation and fully implement its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Our high commission also supports programme and project work designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote women's rights, help the Government of Pakistan achieve the Millennium Development Goals and take forward the recommendations made by the EU Election Observation Mission after Pakistan's elections in February 2008.

Spirit of Humanity: British Nationality

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on the health of the British nationals on the vessel Spirit of Humanity. [285294]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Israeli navy took control of the vessel Spirit of Humanity and diverted it to Ashdod port in Israel, where all those on board, including six British nationals, were handed over to Israeli immigration officials. British consular officials had good access to the British detainees and confirmed they were all treated well. All six were deported and arrived in the UK on 6 July 2009.

When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009, he raised the issue with him and asked for clarification of whether the Spirit of Humanity had been intercepted in international waters.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals from the Gaza aid vessel, Spirit of Humanity have been detained by Israeli authorities; and if he will make a statement. [285295]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I can confirm the Israeli navy boarded the vessel Spirit of Humanity on 30 June 2009. The Israeli navy took control of the vessel and diverted it to Ashdod port in Israel, where all those on board, including six British nationals, were handed over to Israeli immigration officials. All six were deported and arrived in the UK on 6 July 2009.

When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009, he raised the issue with him and asked for clarification of whether the Spirit of Humanity was intercepted in international waters.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government on the legal status of the British nationals on the Gaza aid vessel, Spirit of Humanity. [285296]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, on 1 July 2009. He raised the issue with him and asked for clarification of whether the Spirit of Humanity was intercepted in international waters. We will continue to press the Israeli Government for clarification.

Terrorism: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace) of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on overseas aid: terrorism, what the arrangements are for scrutiny of the expenditure of the sum allocated to his Department's Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme; and what categories of expenditure have been established for the programme. [285278]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: To measure the impact of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) counter radicalisation work overseas, the FCO has developed a system with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's delivery unit and the National Audit Office. All proposals submitted to the FCO's Counter Terrorism Radicalisation Programme for funding undergo a rigorous assessment process and are monitored closely by our diplomatic missions overseas and by external assessors to ensure they deliver good value for money.

The categories of expenditure for the programme cover the four CONTEST counter terrorism strategy pillars: Protect, Prepare, Pursue and Prevent.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative cost of the Communitybuilders programme has been to date. [284921]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government and the Office of the Third Sector have spent approximately £244,520 on the administration of the Communitybuilders programme, excluding staff costs. This figure consists of £24,520 for the branding of the programme, £60,000 for promotion at a series of regional road shows and approximately £160,000 for specialist procurement advice.

Staff costs for the administration of the programme between January 2008 and June 2009 were approximately £119,000 for Communities and Local Government and £16,800 for the Office of the Third Sector.

Council Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Regent's Park and Kensington North of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 456W, on housing: City of Westminster, what funding his Department has provided to each local authority for housing in each of the last five years; from what budgets such funding was drawn; and for what purposes such funding was allocated. [281334]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table setting out the housing revenue account expenditure allowances and capital allocations that the Department has provided to local authorities in each of the last five years, has been placed in the Libraries of the House. All funds were allocated for the repairs, maintenance and upkeep of properties.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to redeem the housing debt of local authorities which have transferred their council housing to housing associations in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next three years; and what arrangements have been made with the Scottish Executive to redeem such debts in respect of local authorities in Scotland. [284932]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has an annual voted provision of £616 million for overhanging debt payments which is adjusted as each year unfolds. The amount of debt the Department has paid to the Public Works Loans Boards in respect of completed housing stock transfers so far this financial year is £126,699,339.51, and expects to make a further payment of approximately £149 million for other transfers due to complete by 31 March 2010. For 2010-11 financial year the Department is forecasting debt payments in the region of £250 million. Figures for subsequent years are not available.

The Department is not responsible for any arrangements for overhanging debt in respect of local authorities in Scotland as this responsibility is devolved to the Scottish Executive.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether primary legislation will be required to give effect to his proposal to allow local authorities to retain rent receipts from new-build council houses. [284798]

Mr. Ian Austin: Section 313 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 inserted a new section 80B into the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which permits the Secretary of State to enter into agreements with local authorities to hold certain properties outside the HRA subsidy system. This measure enables authorities to retain rent receipts from excluded properties.

Council Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of allowing local authorities to retain capital receipts from *(a)* Right to Buy and *(b)* other housing sales in 2010-11. [284122]

Mr. Ian Austin: The outcome of the review of council housing finance announced on 30 June 2009 included proposals to allow authorities to retain their housing receipts. Further details on this proposal, including possible implementation dates and the effect on the Exchequer, will be given in the forthcoming consultation paper.

Council Housing: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of council houses in each local authority which will meet the Decent Homes standard by 2010; and what steps he plans to take to assist local authorities to maintain that standard after 2010. [284760]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table provides information as reported by local authorities in 2008 on dwellings that meet the Decent Homes standard. In his written statement on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 7WS, my hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing stated that our aim in setting up the self financing system for council housing is to ensure that it delivers the investment needed to sustain and maintain decency.

Council Housing: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions the Government Office for the South West has had with Stroud District Council on transfer of its housing stock; whether the Government Office requested those discussions; what proposals the Government Office made to the council about stock transfer in those discussions; and if he will make a statement. [284979]

Mr. Ian Austin: There have been no recent discussions about transfer of its housing stock.

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities allow *(a)* an exemption from payment of council tax on a property for six months after probate has been granted and *(b)* an exemption from or discount on payment of council tax on a property for six months or more following a bereavement; and what exemptions or discounts apply in each case. [285508]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under Class F of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992, dwellings left empty by the death of the owner or tenant are exempt from council tax from the date of death until up to six months after the date of a grant of probate or letters of administration have been made. Local authorities have no discretion about granting this exemption.

Where a dwelling is not left empty by the bereavement, the normal rules for council tax would continue to apply to the surviving occupier(s). Local authorities have a general power under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discretionary discounts. We know of no authority which has used that power to grant discounts on the occasion of a bereavement.

Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the 10 planned eco-towns to be constructed. [284568]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W.

Energy Performance Certificates: Fees and Charges

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans next to review the fees charged for adding an entry to the register of energy display certificates. [284473]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1342W.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on Homes and Communities Agency: expenditure, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Homes and Communities Agency's *(a)* brand induction flyer for staff, *(b)* brand guidelines and *(c)* stationery design guidance. [284482]

John Healey: I have placed in the House Library a copy of the Homes and Communities Agency brand induction flyer for staff and brand guidelines. The statutory design guidance was a significant piece of work undertaken to develop a set of templates for printed items including letterheads, compliment slips and business cards for the HCA and is therefore not available as a document.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have a deficit on their housing revenue account. [283629]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities have a statutory duty to prevent a debit balance on their housing revenue account.

LB Lambeth informed the Department that they ended the last financial year with a deficit on their housing revenue account and are taking remedial action this year. No other local authorities have currently reported a deficit.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, on housing, whether the proposed changes to housing revenue accounts will require changes to primary legislation. [284910]

Mr. Ian Austin: We believe that the changes proposed in my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing's statement will require primary legislation. This is because the provisions relating to the housing revenue account ("HRA") and HRA subsidy contained in part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 will not be wide enough to provide for the proposals set out in the statement. Section 80B of the Housing Act 1985, inserted by section 313 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, enables the Secretary of State and a local authority to agree that specified houses owned by the authority will not be subject to the HRA subsidy provisions. However, the provision only allows for individually negotiated terms agreed individually by the authority. This cannot provide for the changes proposed in the ministerial statement.

We cannot be certain of what will be required until the outcome of the consultation exercise is known.

Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £1.5 billion expenditure on housing announced on pages 37 and 38 of Building Britain's Future, Cm. 7654, will be *(a)* new money, *(b)* money reallocated from other budgets and *(c)* expenditure brought forward from future years. [284497]

John Healey: The £1.5 billion for the Housing Pledge is additional expenditure on new affordable housing and related housing market provision as set out in 'Building Britain's Future'. It is funded through contributions from other Government Departments and reprioritisation of Communities and Local Government (CLG) programmes.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were sold under the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* First-time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme in May 2009; and how many had been sold under each such scheme at the latest date for which figures are available. [283428]

John Healey: The following table shows the number of completions under each HomeBuy scheme for 2008-09:

Scheme	*Number*
HomeBuy Direct	0
OwnHome	800
OpenMarket HomeBuy	6,120
First-time Buyers Initiative	1,030
MyChoice HomeBuy	3,120
New Build HomeBuy	10,650
Social HomeBuy	100
Rent to HomeBuy	1,170

Source: Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The figures show the number of affordable housing completions, not the number of sales. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Figures showing the number of affordable homes completions in May 2009 by type of scheme are not available.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many armed forces personnel resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the South East have applied for assistance to (i) purchase a home under the New Build HomeBuy scheme and (ii) rent a home under the intermediate rent scheme in each month since 2006. [284427]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 2 July, *Official Report*, column 369W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has to commission evaluations of the performance of each of his Department's HomeBuy schemes; [284474]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-Time Buyers' Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy scheme. [284499]

John Healey: The HCA keeps the Affordable Housing Programme under review and makes regular reports to the Department.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions the Homes and Communities Agency has had with each bank in which the Government has a shareholding on providing mortgage finance for *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First time Buyers' Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy. [284475]

John Healey: The Department and the Homes and Communities Agency are working with all major mortgage lenders, both directly and through the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Building Societies Association, in order to encourage increased availability of mortgages for shared ownership purchasers.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Infrastructure Planning Commission has budgeted for legal costs in its first full year of operation. [284441]

John Healey: The IPC budget for its first full year will be agreed by winter 2009.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W, on Chorley borough council: bank services, what steps he has taken to assist local authorities in the recovery of deposits held by them in Icelandic banks. [284589]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government has been doing everything it can to help local authorities, along with other creditors, get their money back. HM Treasury has been working with the Icelandic authorities to ensure fair treatment for UK creditors.

Local Government: Equality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are upon local authorities to complete an equality impact assessment. [284479]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities, like all public authorities, are required to assess the impact of relevant policies and practices on gender, race and disability equality in line with the requirements of the gender, race and disability equality duties.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the forthcoming consultation exercise on local democratic renewal. [284071]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The consultation exercise on local democratic renewal will be published shortly.

Local Government: Redundancy

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies in the local government sector in 2009-10. [285509]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held by Communities and Local Government.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 753W, on mortgages: Government assistance, whether *(a)* the Bank of Ireland, *(b)* GMAC, *(c)* Kensington Mortgages, *(d)* GE Money and *(e)* the Post Office has joined the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [284477]

John Healey: GE Money, GMAC, Kensington Mortgages and the Bank of Ireland (which services operates its residential mortgage lending through four brands in the UK - Bristol and West Mortgages, Bank of Ireland Mortgages, Giraffe and Post Office Mortgages), are all committed to offer the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of gross revenue from business rates in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 in England. [284505]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities reported that they expect the gross revenue (before deductions for reliefs and collection costs) to be raised from non-domestic rates in 2008-09 in England to be £21.475 billion. The corresponding figure for 2009-10 is £22.473 billion.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the final regional spatial strategy for the South West will be issued. [285435]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 20 May, the High Court gave an oral judgment that the published Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England failed to meet certain requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive in respect of policies relating to three towns.

The Department and the Government office for the south-west are currently considering the potential implications for the Regional Spatial Strategy for the south-west, and an announcement is expected shortly.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with housing associations on lender support for shared ownership housing schemes; [284412]

(2) if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency will urge lenders (i) in the private sector and (ii) partly or wholly in public ownership to maintain credit flows to first-time buyers to participate in shared ownership schemes. [284413]

John Healey: The Department and the Homes and Communities Agency are working with all major mortgage lenders, both directly and through the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Building Societies Association, in order to encourage increased availability of mortgages for shared ownership purchasers.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of households on social housing waiting lists which are *(a)* single-person, *(b)* two-person, *(c)* three-person and *(d)* four or more person households. [283241]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the size of households on social housing waiting lists is not available.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many socially rented housing units are included in schemes involving demolition and rebuilding in each region; and how many homes for social use will be provided by such schemes on completion in each region. [284700]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing the number of socially rented homes included in schemes involving demolition and rebuilding are not held centrally.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures his Department uses to assess the performance of the

Deposit Protection Service; and what the level of performance against those measures was in the latest period for which figures are available. [285432]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Deposit Protection Service (DPS) is required to submit monthly reports on 11 key performance indicators under the terms of its contract with Communities and Local Government. In addition, the Department holds quarterly monitoring meetings with the DPS at which any performance issues can be discussed. Over the 27 months that the scheme has been operating, the DPS's performance has been consistently high, with targets regularly being exceeded.

HOME DEPARTMENT

CCTV

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department and its agencies have provided to local authorities on the use of CCTV cameras fitted with microphones to tackle crime. [284148]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance to local authorities on the use of CCTV cameras fitted with microphones has not been issued by the Home Office or its agencies.

Community Policing: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency. [283187]

Mr. Hanson: HMIC has inspected every force in England and Wales to assess their capabilities in delivering neighbourhood policing and developing citizen focus. HMIC's assessment in September 2008 was that all forces, including Merseyside police, had met this standard.

Community Support Officers: Equipment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance to chief constables on the use of stab-proof vests by police community support officers. [283940]

Mr. Hanson: In 2008 the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) was commissioned by the Home Office, Association of Police Authorities and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to undertake a review of the operational deployment and use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO). Among other issues, this review focused on the issue of Personal Protective Equipment (including protective vests) and the core role and function of PCSOs. Following the review a number of general principles were agreed, one being that PCSOs would undertake public facing non-confrontational duties in uniform.

The NPIA will be publishing general risk guidance for all operational staff including PCSOs in late summer 2009.

ACPO issued guidance to forces in 2005, updated in 2007, on Police Community Support Officers.

Crime: Glastonbury Festival

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for each category of offence at the 2009 Glastonbury Festival. [284105]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested are not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) recorded by the police forces in England and Wales. Data are not reported to the Home Office below police force area level. The most recent year of data available is 2007-08.

For more detailed information I would direct the hon. Member to Avon and Somerset police.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets he has set for the reduction of knife crime in the next three years. [282057]

Mr. Hanson: Under the Government's PSA 23 target, we are committed to reducing the most serious violence, including tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence. No separate numerical target for knife crime has been set but we have made clear that the aim of the Tackling Knives Action Programme is to reduce the number of young people killed and seriously injured by knives.

Internet

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will discuss with Phorm the potential for the use of its technologies in surveillance of internet use for the purposes of counter-terrorism; [280981]

(2) whether his Department's note on the applicability of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to targeted online advertising was based on the assumption that internet users would have to opt *(a)* in and *(b)* out in relation to the use of their data for the purposes of such advertising. [280891]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office expressed an informal view about targeted online advertising and RIPA in response to a number of requests. That note concludes that targeted online advertising systems might be lawful if consent was "expressed appropriately". It did not consider whether the advertising system was either opt-in or opt-out. The Information Commissioner has confirmed that consent should be given on the basis of an opt-in system.

No discussions have taken place between the Home Office and Phorm regarding the use of its technology for counter-terrorism purposes and none are planned.

The European Commission requested a reply within two months and the Government have responded accordingly. It would not be appropriate to disclose the response while the Commission is still considering it.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department monitors internet traffic. [282032]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 June 2009]*: The Home Office does not monitor internet traffic.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on monitoring internet traffic in each of the last five years. [282033]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 June 2009]*: The Home Office does not monitor internet traffic.

The Home Office does sponsor systems to enable communications service providers to store communications data that they are required to retain under the European Data Retention Directive 2006/24/EC, or retain voluntarily under the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 code of practice on data retention. Communications data are the who, when and where of a communication, but none of the content.

The Home Office spend on these systems over the last five years is shown as follows.

	ATCSA	£ *EUDRD*
2004-05	84,382.23	—
2005-06	770,800.00	—
2006-07	1,282,106.90	—
2007-08	3,714,945.00	2,632,450.00
2008-09	3,367,121.25	6,606,406.40

Knives: Amnesty

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to introduce a national knife amnesty. [284601]

Mr. Hanson: The Government do not have any current plans for the introduction of a national knife amnesty.

In June 2007, the Home Office and ACPO published Knife Crime Best Practice for police forces in England and Wales, including the use of knife amnesties. This built upon the lessons learned from the National Knife Amnesty run in partnership with ACPO in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from 24 May to 30 June 2006.

Police forces can if they wish run local knife amnesties taking advice from ACPO and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 10 December 2008 on computer server security. [262979]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) wrote to the hon. Member in June.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 28 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Fazli Subhan. [280437]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 July 2009.

Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on knife arches in the last 12 months. [284102]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have spent £421,557 on the purchase of search equipment, including knife arches and search wands, for police forces in the last 12 months.

The provision of search equipment for police forces was a key measure of the Tackling Violence Action Plan announced in February 2008 and the Tackling Knives Action programme which was announced in June last year.

Offensive Weapons: Amnesties

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to police authorities on the organisation and conduct of local knife amnesty programmes. [282055]

Mr. Hanson: In June 2007, the Home Office and ACPO published Knife Crime Best Practice for police forces in England and Wales, including the use of knife amnesties.

This built upon the lessons learned from the National Knife Amnesty run in partnership with ACPO in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from 24 May to 30 June 2006.

Office of Cyber Security: Cyber Security Operations Centre

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* budget and *(b)* personnel his Department will provide for the (i) Office of Cyber Security and (ii) Cyber Security Operations Centre in the first 12 months of operation. [283488]

Mr. Hanson: The Office of Cyber Security (OCS) will be established in September 2009 to provide strategic leadership for and coherence across Government, and to establish a cross-Government programme to address priority areas in pursuit of the UK's strategic cyber security objectives. The OCS will be established in and supported by the Cabinet Office. As a multi-agency body, it will include personnel from across Government; the exact staffing arrangements are currently being determined.

The Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) will be established at the same time to bring together existing multi-agency efforts to provide situational awareness, analysis and incident response co-ordination in the cyber security field, making sure that new and existing resources are used to best effect in the areas where they are needed the most. As a multi-agency body, in common with the OCS, the CSOC will include personnel from across Government; the exact staffing arrangements are currently being determined.

The additional resources for the Government's overall cyber security programme will be reported to the House in the autumn.

Police: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for policing in Crosby constituency was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [283188]

Mr. Hanson: The Government allocate funding to police authorities as a whole. The allocation of resources in Crosby constituency is a matter for the chief constable of Merseyside police and the police authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Merseyside's final budget was £307.3 million for 2007-08 and £317.1 million for 2008-09.

Police: Pensions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of police pension payments *(a)* was in each of the last five financial years and *(b)* is projected to be in each of the next five financial years. [282875]

Alan Johnson: Before 2006-07 police pensions were paid out of forces' operating accounts. Information about the level of pensions expenditure net of officer contributions is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

Since 2006-07, forces have paid police pensions out of a pensions account into which are paid officers' contributions and the employer's contribution. Where the pensions account does not have enough funds to meet the costs of pensions in any year it is topped up with grant from central Government; any surplus is recouped. The following table gives expenditure information in relation to England and Wales.

The Government Actuary's Department is currently reviewing its projections for future expenditure on police pensions, with a view to providing updated projections later in 2009. In view of this, I shall write to the hon. Member when the revised projections are available.

£ billion

Financial year	*Total pension expenditure*	*Expenditure net of officers' contributions*
2006-07	1.970	1.471
2007-08	2.096	1.577
2008-09[1]	2.374	1.849

[1] Unaudited account information.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is available to local residents from the police to prevent illegal Travellers sites being established at times when local authority offices are closed, with particular reference to cases where the land is owned by the Travellers concerned. [284550]

Mr. Hanson: Police have powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Act 1994 to deal with unauthorised encampments. These are discretionary powers and it would be a decision for the senior officer at the scene as to whether they were used.

TREASURY

Chief Scientist

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will appoint a chief scientist to his Department. [284596]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are currently no plans to appoint a chief scientist in the Treasury.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284885]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No Treasury employees have been posted to work in offices of any of the hon. Members of any of the political parties in each of the last five years. In accordance with the Civil Service Code, Treasury officials are accountable to Ministers, who are in turn accountable to Parliament. It would be a breach of the Code for Treasury officials to act in a way that is determined by party political considerations.

Euro Preparations Advisory Group

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Local Authorities Euro Preparations Group last met. [284920]

Mr. Timms: The last meeting between local authorities and central Government officials to discuss Euro preparations took place in September 2006.

Financial Services Authority: Communication Service Providers

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for communications data were made by the Financial Services Authority to communication service providers (CSPs) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006, *(g)* 2007 and *(h)* 2008; and how many of these requests resulted in the requested communications data being disclosed by the relevant CSP. [284870]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I understand that the FSA will write to the hon. Member directly.

Financial Services: Eligibility

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of those over 65 years of age who have been disqualified from eligibility for financial services on the grounds of age. [283229]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government Equalities Office 2007 consultation "A Framework for Fairness" found that some people were unhappy about how age is used in financial services products, mostly in respect of older people's experience of travel and motor insurance.

After the "Framework for Fairness" consultation and the report of the expert's working group on age discrimination in financial services, the Government commissioned research from Oxera on the use of age-based practices in financial services. This was published by the Government Equalities Office on 29 June 2009 alongside "Ending age discrimination in services and public functions—a consultation", and concluded that, although some people have real problems with finding and buying suitable insurance policies, no age group is excluded from motor or travel insurance markets on the grounds of age.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has issued recent guidance to financial institutions on age-related eligibility criteria for financial products; and if he will make a statement. [285238]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has not issued any recent guidance to financial institutions on age-related eligibility criteria for financial products.

On 29 June 2009, the Government Equalities Office published "Ending age discrimination in services and public functions—a consultation". The results of this consultation will help clarify how the Equalities Bill prohibition on unjustified age discrimination will be applied in the financial services sector.

Taxation: Repayments

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect the introduction of random security checks has had on the average length of time taken by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make repayments of tax; and how much HMRC owes in repayments to *(a)* individual taxpayers and *(b)* small businesses for the tax year 2007-08. [284599]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) seek to strike a balance between issuing repayments as quickly as possible for the benefit of the customers and ensuring that the Exchequer is adequately protected against fraud. Therefore some tax repayment claims are subject to security checks, which may delay repayments from being made.

Some self assessment customers have unfortunately experienced such delays this year caused by a combination of a very much sharper peak of repayments in January and February, arising from the move to greater online filing, and more repayments being selected for our security checking.

Figures for the amount HMRC owes in repayments for the tax year 2007-08 are not available. Repayments of tax are not due until the customer's tax position for the tax year has been finalised.

Taxation: Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many inheritance tax valuations were challenged by the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last three years. [284023]

Mr. Timms: The number of inheritance tax cases in which the valuations submitted by taxpayers were adjusted following a challenge by the Valuation Office Agency was 3,644 in 2008-09, 5,783 in 2007-08 and 6,318 in 2006-07. The Agency's caseworkers are required to act in an impartial manner and only challenge valuations where it is considered that the figure adopted by the parties is not supported by market evidence. The fluctuations in these figures reflect changes in the total volume of cases.

Working Tax Credit: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in City of York constituency are receiving *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit; and what the average monetary value of tax credits to those households was in the latest period for which figures are available. [283873]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of recipient families in receipt of child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is given in the HMRC snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2009".

Information on average annual entitlements by each parliamentary constituency, based on incomes and final family circumstances in 2007-08, is produced in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses. 2007-08". These publications are available on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC does not produce separate statistics for child and working tax credits.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Public Awareness

14. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the level of awareness among the public of the consequences of climate change. [283164]

Joan Ruddock: In March 2009, as part of the Act on CO_2 campaign, our independent research showed that about 90 per cent. of those consulted indicated that they were aware of climate change.

Recent qualitative research studies, commissioned separately by the Department for Transport, and by my Department, probed what people actually know, and suggested that levels of literacy about climate change are low and fragmented.

22. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the level of awareness among the public of the consequences of climate change. [283172]

Joan Ruddock: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Sedgefield (Phil Wilson), earlier today.

Carbon Capture and Storage

16. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the development of carbon capture and storage technology; and if he will make a statement. [285166]

Edward Miliband: Carbon capture and storage technology has huge potential to turn coal into a clean fuel of the future. While it has only been demonstrated at small scale, our plans will be among the largest demonstration projects in the world and we hope will drive us towards the successful deployment of CCS in developed and developing countries.

17. **Mr. Ronnie Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy on carbon capture and storage is; and if he will make a statement. [285167]

Edward Miliband: Carbon capture and storage is essential in the battle against climate change, because of the global reliance on coal in the energy mix, now and in the future. Our policy is to show leadership on this issue as a way to improve our energy security, help provide jobs for the future and bring down carbon emissions.

Smart Meters

20. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department has made on the national roll-out of smart meters. [285170]

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the introduction of smart meters; and if he will make a statement. [285168]

Mr. Kidney: Last year the Government announced their intention to mandate smart electricity and, where relevant, gas metering for all households in Great Britain. This will be a major project involving the installation of about 47 million smart meters. We have set an indicative timetable for a completion of the roll-out by the end of 2020. We published a consultation on aspects of implementation on 11 May 2009. The consultation is available on the open consultations section of the DECC website. Obviously replies are still being received to this consultation, the closing date is not until 3 August and all responses received will be considered.

In addition, officials have met with numerous organisations and individuals to discuss smart metering issues, including energy supply companies, network operating companies, metering businesses, consumer organisations and others with an interest in smart metering.

Domestic Energy Prices

21. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of trends in domestic energy prices; and if he will make a statement. [285171]

Mr. Kidney: Global energy demand and wholesale prices have fallen since peaks last year. It is essential that falls in wholesale costs reach consumers. This is why we asked Ofgem to provide quarterly reports on price movements.

Ofgem's most recent report found that margins are around historic levels, and falls in costs appear to be being passed on to consumers. We expect suppliers to continue to pass on any sustained falls in wholesale costs.

Renewable Energy: Electricity Generation

23. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of electricity generated from *(a)* solar and *(b)* other renewable sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [285173]

Mr. Kidney: In 2008, a very small proportion (0.004 per cent.) of electricity was generated from solar. However, in total, renewable generation grew by 10 per cent. during 2008, and accounted for 5.5 per cent. of total electricity generation.

Renewable Energy: Consultation

24. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the conclusions of his Department's consultation on renewable energy. [285174]

Mr. Kidney: We have already published a summary of responses to the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation on the DECC website, and we will publish a new Renewable Energy Strategy, in response to the consultation, later this month.

Fuel Poverty

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department began its review of its strategy for tackling fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [285095]

Mr. Kidney: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change announced that the Government would be reviewing their fuel poverty policies during her evidence to the EFRA Select Committee in January 2009. The Director for the review was formally appointed in March 2009, and the majority of the team was in place in April 2009.

Initial findings of this review are expected in the summer of 2009. Until the review has delivered its findings it would be inappropriate to consider whether to revise the Government's fuel poverty strategy.

Fuel Poverty: Public Consultation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public consultation he plans to undertake as part of his Department's review of its strategy for tackling fuel poverty. [285093]

Mr. Kidney: DECC is currently undertaking a review of its fuel poverty policies. Initial findings of this review are expected in the summer of 2009. Until the review has delivered its findings it would be inappropriate to consider whether to revise the Government's fuel poverty strategy. If the Government decided they did wish to revise the strategy, it would comply with the code of practice on consultation.

Office for Renewable Energy Development

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the proposed Office for Renewable Energy Development will become operational; and if he will make a statement. [285041]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 8 July 2009]:* The Government announced in the Manufacturing Strategy Review of September 2008, "Manufacturing: New Challenges, New Opportunities" that the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) would be established as the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) was finalised. The Government intend to publish the RES this summer and the ORED will be formally launched in line with its earlier announcement.

Sizewell A Power Station

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what marine environmental assessment the Government have made in respect of the discharge of coolant from Sizewell A. [280804]

Mr. Kidney: The Environment Agency, as the independent regulator, carried out an assessment of the radiological impact of the discharge and concluded that there had been no additional impact beyond that assessed and authorised for routine discharges on the marine environment.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations his Department has received from the Institute of Domestic Energy Assessors on eaga plc work on the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [284468]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* The Department has not received any representations from either the Institute of Domestic Energy Assessors (IDEA) or its members on eaga plc's work on the Warm Front scheme.

The Department has however received seven representations from the Institute of Domestic Energy Assessors (IDEA) and its members alleging a conflict of interest around eaga plc's role in administering the Warm Front scheme and the services they offer on a commercial basis such as the provision of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for dwellings.

Eaga plc is a commercial enterprise offering a variety of services to both central and local government as well as the social housing and private sectors. The provision of EPCs to external parties does not represent a conflict of interest in terms of their role managing the Warm Front scheme.

HEALTH

Alcoholism

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admissions to hospital where an illness related to alcohol was a primary or secondary diagnosis at the outset there were in each NHS trust in each of the last three years. [284843]

Gillian Merron: The number of alcohol-related hospital admissions, either with a primary or secondary diagnosis, in each national health service trust, for each of the last three years that data are available is given in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholism: Accident and Emergency Departments

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes where the admission method was via accident and emergency for an alcohol-related diagnosis there were in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [284842]

Gillian Merron: The number of alcohol-related hospital admissions via accident and emergency, in each national health service trust, for each of the last five years that data are available is given in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's programme budgeting data for 2007-08. [283287]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department plans to publish the programme budgeting data for 2007-08 on 16 July 2009.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285014]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its options for updating its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. No decision has yet been made as to which web browser the Department will update to or when any update might take place.

Departmental Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes have been made to his Department's *(a)* office equipment and *(b)* stationery purchasing policy in the last six months. [285313]

Phil Hope: The Department has not reviewed or changed its purchasing policy for office equipment or stationery in the last six months.

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284892]

Phil Hope: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code.

Civil servants may shadow hon. Members as part of a programme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust. Information about number of civil servants from the Department that have had such an attachment is not held centrally.

Drugs: Medical Treatments

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on funding drug treatment services in each year since 1997; and what the projected expenditure on drug treatment services is in each year to 2010-11. [284840]

Gillian Merron: Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This funding is allocated to 149 drug teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. Information on drug treatment spend prior to 2001 is not held centrally.

	PTB allocation (£ million)
2001-02	142
2002-03	192
2003-04	236
2004-05	253
2005-06	300
2006-07	385
2007-08	398
2008-09	398
2009-10	406
2010-11	[1]

[1] Not yet available

Drugs: Misuse

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many problem drug users there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in (i) 1997 and (ii) each of the last five years; and how many received treatment. [282856]

Gillian Merron: Data on problem drug users in 1997 and for problem drug users in Castle Point are not collected centrally. For planning purposes, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse have advised Essex that they use an estimate of 3,486 problematic drug users[1] (PDU). However, there are insufficient data on the number of PDU to determine how the PDU population has changed over time.

Data on the number of problematic drug users in treatment in Essex since 2004-05 are given as follows. Data for 2008-09 are not yet available.

[1] Based on data collected by the university of Glasgow covering the period 2004-05 to 2006-07.

	Number
2004-05	1,095
2005-06	1,361
2006-07	1,623
2007-08	1,762

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were discharged from treatment for drug misuse in the categories of *(a)* treatment completed drug free, *(b)* treatment completed not drug free, *(c)* dropped out, *(d)* referred to other treatment, *(e)* individual entered prison, *(f)* individual died and *(g)* reason not known in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08. [284838]

Gillian Merron: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's National Drug Treatment Monitoring System collects discharge information and the numbers recorded for the discharge codes requested for the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 are as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Treatment completed drug free	3,632	4,559	5,829	7,320
Treatment completed	7,656	10,662	13,022	17,306
Referred on	4,516	6,348	8,662	10,811
Dropped out/left	23,955	26,136	23,646	19,591
Prison	2,441	3,486	4,069	4,240
Died	602	514	633	784
Other	4,383	2,376	1,556	520
Retained in treatment	104,900	113,521	129,341	133,034

Note:
Data collected for 2003-04 were not robust enough to provide figures for that year.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to Lord Laird of 1 June 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 31WA, on health: former UK residents, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the EU-level meeting held in November 2008. [284193]

Gillian Merron: The European Commission does not make the minutes of the Audit Board publicly available. However, details of agreed average costs are published in the Official Journal of the European Union. A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

Heroin

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many items of heroin substitute in each category were dispensed to patients in each of the last six years. [284841]

Gillian Merron: Section 4.10 (Drugs used in substance dependence) of the British National Formulary (BNF) lists two drugs classified as heroin substitutes, Methadone and Buprenorphine.

The following table shows the number of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England.

Prescription items dispensed for heroin substitute drugs within Section 4.10 of the BNF

						Items (thousand)
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Methadone Hydrochloride	1,512.5	1,721.1	1,954.7	2,191.3	2,406.7	2,654.7
Buprenorphine	310.6	462.8	532.7	610.8	621.0	612.7

Prescription items dispensed for heroin substitute drugs within Section 4.10 of the BNF

						Items (thousand)
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Buprenorphine with Naloxone	—	—	—	0.0	19.3	50.3

Notes:
1. '—' indicates no prescription items
2. '0.0' indicates fewer than 50 items
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)

These figures may underestimate use as these drugs are also licensed for use as a cough preparation and analgesic. Some prescriptions intended for use as a substitute for heroin may be recorded in BNF Sections 3.9 (Cough suppressants) and 4.7 (Analgesics).

Hospitals: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18, *(c)* between 19 and 65 and *(d)* over 65 years old were admitted to hospital in each strategic health authority with a primary or secondary cause of admission listed as (i) sunburn, (ii) sunstroke and (iii) dehydration in each of the last five years. [284850]

Gillian Merron: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Kidneys: Research

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on research into *(a)* chronic kidney disease, *(b)* acute kidney injury, *(c)* kidney cancer, *(d)* dialysis, *(e)* end-of-life care for kidney patients and *(f)* other kidney disease in each of the last three years; and how much it plans to spend on such research in 2009. [284484]

Gillian Merron: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council support kidney disease research. Available annual expenditure data are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on renal disease research

		£ million
	Department[1] [2]	Medical Research Council
2006-07	13.2	5.3
2007-08	12.2	5.4
2008-09	[3]9.6	[4]—

[1] Includes NIHR expenditure and reported spend by NHS organisations from the transitional research and development funding allocations made to them over the three-year period.
[2] Excludes the cost of relevant work undertaken by three of the research units funded by Department's Policy Research Programme as it is not separately identifiable.
[3] The estimate of NHS spend included in the total figure given here is provisional. It will be revised when a full analysis of the returns from which it derives has been completed.
[4] Not yet available.

The National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) clinical research network is currently supporting 38 studies concerned with renal disease.

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department. [285049]

Phil Hope: The Department does not distribute area-based grants (ABG) direct to local authorities.

The Department contributes to the ABG in the form of monthly payments to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG then distribute these grant monies direct to local authorities.

The Department of Health does distribute adult personal social services capital grants and specific revenue grant monies directly to local authorities, via regular grant payments. The capital grant monies are either paid directly to all local authorities or issued, via a bidding process, to specific local authorities.

Details of all adult personal social services specific revenue and capital grant allocations and contributions to the ABG for 2008-11 were announced in LASSL(DH)(2007)2 and LASSL(DH)(2007)3. In addition, details of the grants included within the bidding processing were also published in these documents. Local authority social services letters (LASSLs) and local authority circulars are published by the Department of Health.

A copy of the respective LASSLs has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/index.htm

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of the annual costs to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant. [285050]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

The Department uses an in-house electronic information system, the business management system (BMS), which brings together the Department's human resources, procurement and finance information and processing into a single integrated system. The Department uses the BMS system to process and issue adult personal social services grants.

The Department contributes to the area-based grant in the form of monthly payments, via BMS, to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG then distribute these grant monies direct to local authorities.

The Department distributes capital grant monies and specific revenue grant monies directly to local authorities, via regular grant payments, again using the BMS. Information on costs to local authorities of administering each grant is not collected by the Department.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* eligibility conditions and *(b)* compliance measures are in place in respect of the expenditure by local authorities of each grant distributed by his Department; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of monitoring the compliance by local authorities with such measures in respect of each such grant. [285121]

Phil Hope: Grant eligibility conditions and compliance measures are set out in local authority social services letters (LASSLs) and local authority circulars (LACs), as published by the Department. These official circulars notify local authorities of their specific revenue and capital grant funding and the Department's contributions to the area-based grant (ABG) in support of social care policies (including children's personal social services funding insofar as this is provided by the children and adolescent mental health services contribution).

From April 2008, the majority of revenue grants will be delivered to local authorities through the Department's contribution to the ABG. The ABG is paid on an unringfenced basis and as such local authorities are able to determine locally how best to spend these grants in order to deliver local and national priorities. As an unringfenced grant, there are no restrictions on carry forward between financial years. This represents a considerable increase in the flexibility open to local government to take local spending decisions in line with the new performance framework. The ABG is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and paid to local authorities on a monthly basis.

For the small number of ring-fenced grants, these are allocated via a bidding process. Therefore, there are 'eligibility' criteria and compliance measures attached to the use of these monies in order to meet the specific social care policy.

Copies of LASSL(s) and LACs are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/index.htm

Meat Hygiene Service: Manpower

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meat hygiene inspectors were employed by the Meat Hygiene Service *(a)* at its inception and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [284753]

Gillian Merron: Figures solely for the number of meat hygiene inspectors (MHIs) when the Meat Hygiene Service was established on 1 April 1995 are not available.

However, the average number of meat hygiene inspectors and official veterinarians employed by the MHS in 1995-96 was 1,007 and in 2008-09 was 876. These numbers exclude casual and contract staff.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of veterinary to administrative staff in the Meat Hygiene Service was *(a)* at its inception and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [284756]

Gillian Merron: A breakdown of headcount numbers at the establishment of the Meat Hygiene Service on 1 April 1995 is not available in sufficient detail to calculate the ratio of veterinary/inspection staff to administrative/managerial staff.

As at 31 March 2009

Veterinary/Inspection staff—1,254

Administrative/Managerial staff—166

Ratio

Veterinary/inspection:administrative/managerial—7.6:1

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of employing a meat hygiene inspector to the Meat Hygiene Service was *(a)* at its inception in current prices and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [284757]

Gillian Merron: The average cost of employing a meat hygiene inspector when the Meat Hygiene Service was established on 1 April 1995 is unavailable.

The salary scale for a meat hygiene inspector as at 31 March 2009 is £20,974 to £25,541[1, 2].

[1] Member of principal civil service pension scheme.

[2] Pay award pending.

Meat Hygiene Service: Slaughterhouses

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits were made on average by meat hygiene inspectors to abattoirs *(a)* in the first 12 months after the establishment of the Meat Hygiene Service and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [284754]

Gillian Merron: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is responsible for official controls in all approved fresh meat establishments including abattoirs. Since establishment on 1 April 1995, the MHS has carried out these controls in abattoirs through daily attendance to undertake ante and post-mortem inspection of every animal/carcase. The MHS also audits, on a risk based frequency, operator compliance with all relevant legislation.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abattoirs there were when the Meat Hygiene Service was established; and how many there are now. [284755]

Gillian Merron: The number of abattoirs operating when the Meat Hygiene Service was established on 1 April 1995 is unavailable.

However, at 31 March 1997 there were 715 abattoirs and at 31 March 2009 there were 369 abattoirs.

Medical Treatments: EC law

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law has come into force in Guernsey. [284939]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Medicines Law is not yet in force in Guernsey. It remains the intention of Guernsey's administration that the law will commence with effect from 1 October 2009, through seeking approval of a Commencement Ordinance in the States of Deliberation shortly beforehand.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse:

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are employed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse; [284836]

(2) which treatment facilities the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse operates; [284837]

(3) how much funding his Department has provided to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in each of the last five years. [284839]

Gillian Merron: As at 6 July 2009, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) employed 191 full-time equivalents staff.

The NTA does not operate any drug treatment facilities. The NTA is a special health authority within the national health service, established by Government in 2001 to improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England. The NTA works with local partnerships and providers to develop more effective local treatment services and collects and publishes monthly data showing how well each area, and treatment service, is performing.

The Department has provided funding to the NTA, a combination of core and project funding, over the last five years, as follows:

	£000
2005-06	10,267
2006-07	11,743
2007-08	13,666
2008-09	15,835
2009-10	16,618

NHS Productivity Unit

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the priorities of his Department's new NHS productivity unit are. [283928]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS productivity and efficiency unit has been established to work with the national health service to identify opportunities for improved productivity and efficiency.

Investment in the NHS will continue to increase in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Departmental allocations beyond 2011 have not yet been set but the NHS chief executive, David Nicholson, has asked the NHS to prepare for a wide range of funding scenarios. The unit will therefore work with both the Department and NHS to:

identify the scale of the likely challenge;

identify potential opportunities for improving quality and efficiency simultaneously because getting it right first time for patients is both efficient and delivers better quality of care; and

identify the work which needs to be done nationally to support this agenda, contributing to the overall Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda.

Screening: Companies

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the terms of reference are of the National Screening Committee's inquiry into private screening companies; [284630]

(2) when the National Screening Committee is expected to publish its report on private screening companies; and which *(a)* companies and *(b)* other organisations have been consulted by the committee in its inquiry. [284631]

Ann Keen: No such inquiry is currently under way.

WALES

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what databases managed by his Department and its agencies hold personal information on members of the public; on what date each such database became operational; and if he will make a statement. [285977]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not maintain such databases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which of the planned databases that will be managed by his Department or one of its agencies and which will hold personal information on members of the public are expected to become operational in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [286148]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has no plans within the next five years to manage any databases holding personal information on members of the public.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on salaries and pensions for Ministers in his Department since 2005. [284859]

Mr. Hain: Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available in the Library of the House and at:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf

Ministerial pension costs are published in the Ministry of Justice Resource accounts each year.

These are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/1055.htm

Departmental Secondment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees of his Department have been posted to work in offices of hon. Members of each political party in each of the last five years. [284884]

Mr. Hain: None.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W, on departmental pay, who the employers are who are paying less than £7.45 an hour for work contracted out by his Department; what the nature of the work undertaken on each contract is; how many staff at each *(a)* pay band and *(b)* location are working on each contract; what the duration of each contract is; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [285511]

Mr. Michael Foster: Charlton House Catering Services Ltd. who provide the staff restaurant facilities, and GBM Support Services Ltd. who carry out the office cleaning are contractors with staff working in 1 Palace street who are paying less than £7.45 an hour.

The Department is currently reviewing options to meet the London living wage pay levels for these staff.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's programmes in India aim to reduce levels of poverty in the rural and tribal regions in that country. [284454]

Mr. Michael Foster: We estimate that around 75 per cent. of the Department for International Development's (DFID) committed expenditure in India will be spent primarily in rural areas. This includes both our national level programming and our support to the state governments of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. DFID ensures that the programmes we support are designed to particularly help the poorest and most excluded groups, such as scheduled castes and tribes. A full list of the DFID programmes which benefit rural and tribal communities in India follows:

DFID programmes addressing rural poverty in India

Duration	*Programme*	*Partner*	*Financial commitment (£ million)*
National			
2006-11	Reproductive and Child Health II Programme	Government of India	252
2007-12	National AIDS Control Programme	Government of India	102
2005-10	Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme	Government of India	41.7
2007-14	Mahila Samakhya Programme—Promoting Education for women's equality	Government of India	35
2008-11	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan—Universalising Elementary Education in India	Government of India	150
2009-14	Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme—Empowerment of poor and socially excluded groups in the Poorest States of India	Civil Societies	25
2005-10	International NGOS Partnership Agreement Programme	International NGOs	20
West Bengal			
2005-10	Health System Development Initiative	Government of West Bengal	100
2006-11	Strengthening Rural Decentralization	Government of West Bengal	36
2005-10	West Bengal Civil Society Support Programme	Civil Societies	5.3
Orissa			
2000-10	Western Orissa Livelihoods Programme	Government of Orissa	32.75
2005-10	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project	Government of Orissa	9.76
2007-12	Health Sector Plan	Government of Orissa	50
Madhya Pradesh			
2007-12	Rural Livelihoods Programme	Government of Madhya Pradesh	45
2007-12	Health Sector Reform Programme	Government of Madhya Pradesh	60
Andhra Pradesh			
2007-10	Health Sector Reform	Government of Andhra Pradesh	40

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's assistance to India is being provided through the Indian Government in 2009-10. [284455]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has provided £780 million as bilateral assistance to India over the last three (2006-09) years. Of this, 74.6 per cent. was provided as targeted financial assistance to the Indian Government at both the State and Central levels.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of providing funding for the rebuilding work required in Orissa following the violence against Christians in that region. [284453]

Mr. Michael Foster: According to official figures, the majority of people displaced by the violence in Orissa have already returned to their villages. There are now only three functional relief camps managed by the Government of Orissa, in which about 1,000 people are housed. A process is currently under way to resettle these people in their villages at the earliest opportunity.

In keeping with its standard policy, the Government of India have not requested bilateral assistance to deal with rehabilitation work in the aftermath of the violence. Accordingly DFID has not made any assessment of funding for rebuilding work. We have, however, raised the issue of social exclusion and violence against minorities in our discussions with the Government of Orissa.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which projects in Orissa his Department is providing assistance. [284456]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently providing assistance to four projects in Orissa:

£32.75 million to the Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods programme, to improve livelihood opportunities for poor people (2000-10);

£9.76 million to the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods programme to improve the access of tribal communities to livelihoods, food security and water and sanitation (2005-10);

£50 million to the Orissa Health Sector Programme to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, infectious diseases and malnutrition (2007-12);

£7.5 million to the Industrial Policy Resolution Project to improve the climate for socially and environmentally responsible investment and enterprise development in Orissa (2003-09).

In addition to these four programmes, Orissa also benefits from DFID's support to national level programmes and civil society partnerships.

Kosovo: Internet

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2875W, on Kosovo: internet, what recent estimate he has made of the number of internet users in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [284547]

Mr. Michael Foster: There has not been a more recent estimate of internet usage in Kosovo since that cited in the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2874W.

Overseas Aid: Health Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 676W, on overseas aid: health services, how much bilateral aid was provided for expenditure on *(a)* reproductive health and *(b)* HIV and AIDS in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07, (v) 2007-08 and (vi) 2008-09. [284471]

Mr. Michael Foster *[holding answer 7 July 2009]*: Details of Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral expenditure on projects which directly target reproductive health and health-related aspects of HIV and AIDS are provided in table 1.

Maternal Health spend data have also been included as there are considerable overlaps in the OECD-DAC definitions for reproductive and maternal health, for example, programmes dealing with the prevention and management of the consequences of abortion are included under the maternal health definition.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive and maternal health and HIV and AIDS, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£ million

	Reproductive health (RH)	*Maternal health (MH)*	*Total RH and MH*	*HIV and AIDS*
2003-04	44.2	4.9	49.4	65.0
2004-05	39.5	16.2	57.1	96.7
2005-06	27.5	18.7	49.2	130.9
2006-07	29.4	21.9	55.8	128.7
2007-08	18.6	34.4	55.8	134.2

However, overall DFID support to these areas covers a much broader range of activities including support for health systems in general. Table 2 provides details on the total level of relevant support, consistent with the earlier response. Figures for 2008-09 will be available later this month following publication of DFID's annual report.

Table 2: DFID bilateral expenditure on all HIV and AIDS activities, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	£ million
2003-04	217.9
2004-05	263.3
2005-06	355.3
2006-07	388.8
2007-08	411.9

United Nations: Females

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on United Nations: females, what funding to support the establishment of a United Nations Agency for Women his Department has allocated; over what time period; and if he will make a statement. [283874]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) will play a full role in ensuring that the new UN Agency for Women is adequately resourced, we will urge others to do the same.

The new White Paper on International Development "Building Our Common Future" sets out our plans to support the creation of the new agency.

Once the new agency is established, DFID will support fundraising efforts, and show leadership by generous core funding—at least doubling our current levels of support for UNIFEM. We will also support the new agency with funding at country level.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government Equalities Office plans to update its web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [285024]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office currently has no plans to change its web browsers.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Astraporta

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the most recent annual accounts for Astraporta (UK) Limited were filed within the statutory period. [284679]

Ian Lucas: The latest accounts were made up to 31 March 2007 and were filed on time on 31 January 2008. The company's accounting reference date was extended from 31 March 2008 to 30 September 2008 on 22 January 2009 so the next accounts would be due by 30 July 2009. Astraporta (UK) Limited went into liquidation in March 2009.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will limit the circumstances in which creditors can petition for bankruptcy to cases of borrower fraud and cases where borrowers have wilfully or culpably neglected to engage with a creditor's demands for payment. [284734]

Ian Lucas: There are no plans to restrict the ability of creditors to petition for bankruptcy to the circumstances suggested. Protections already exist to ensure that bankruptcy is only used as a remedy when genuine recovery attempts have proved to be unsuccessful.

Legislative provisions exist to enable the court to take account of reasonable offers for payment that have been made by the debtor. There is no evidence to suggest that the bankruptcy system is being abused by creditors unwilling to consider such offers and the proportion of bankruptcy orders made on creditors' petitions has remained steady in recent years.

Bearwood Corporate Services

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the most recent annual accounts for Bearwood Corporate Services Limited were filed within the statutory period. [284680]

Ian Lucas: The latest accounts for Bearwood Corporate Services Limited were made up to 31 March 2007 and were filed on time on 31 January 2008. The company's accounting reference date was extended from 31 March 2008 to 30 September 2008 on 22 January 2009 so the next accounts are due to be filed by 30 July 2009.

Bearwood Holdings

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the most recent annual accounts for Bearwood Holdings Limited were filed within the statutory period. [284681]

Ian Lucas: The latest accounts were made up to 31 March 2007 and were filed on time on 31 January 2008. The company's accounting reference date was extended from 31 March 2008 to 30 September 2008 on 22 January 2009 so the next accounts would be due by 30 July 2009. Bearwood Holdings Limited went into liquidation in March 2009.

Business

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require large companies to publish an annual table showing their assets, liabilities, incomes, profits, losses, employees and taxes paid in each country in which each operates. [284218]

Ian Lucas: For UK companies, segmental reporting is currently dealt with under either UK generally accepted accounting principles (UK GAAP) (specifically Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 25) or international financial reporting standards (specifically IFRS 8). These have been developed by the UK and international accounting standards boards. IFRS 8 was modernised by the international accounting standards board (IASB) in 2006 as part of their global convergence project. The UK accounting standards board is currently progressing the convergence of UK GAAP to IFRS. As a result of these major convergence projects in accounting, I currently have no plans to introduce further proposals in this respect.

However, my hon. Friend may be interested to learn that HM Treasury is exploring whether country-by-country reporting of tax payments might offer a suitable means of advancing the tax transparency agenda.

Business: Political Donations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require small companies to disclose political donations in the notes to their financial statements. [284204]

Ian Lucas: No. Under schedule 5 to The Small Companies and Groups (Accounts and Directors' Report) Regulations 2008, small companies are required to disclose particulars of political donations in the directors' report if the aggregate amount of all political donations and political expenditure in respect of EU political parties, organisations or independent election candidates in the relevant financial year exceeds £2,000. The particulars must include the name of each political party, other political organisation or independent election candidate to whom a political donation has been made, and the total amount given to that party, organisation or candidate in the financial year. There are separate disclosure requirements in respect of donations to non-EU political parties.

In the case of a company which is the wholly owned subsidiary of a company incorporated in the United Kingdom, the disclosure, if required, will be made by the holding company.

Competition: Aerials

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what provisions of competition law apply to mobile telephone companies. [284590]

Ian Lucas: Ofcom is the independent regulator for the UK communications industries, including telecommunications. Sectoral regulation applies, in addition to the application of UK and European competition law, which applies to mobile telephone companies as it does to all undertakings, and the application of UK consumer law.

Chapter 9 of Ofcom's Publication "Mobile citizens, mobile consumers" sets out an overview of the most significant forms of regulation in place that effect the mobile sector and which can be found at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/msa08/msa.pdf

The most significant Acts that relate to Ofcom's work are:

Communications Act 2003. This Act gives effect to much of the regulatory framework for electronic communications that has been established by the European Commission across the European Union.

Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006. This Act, which consolidated a number of earlier pieces of legislation, sets out the regime for licensing the right to use spectrum, and empowers Ofcom to take action to prevent unlicensed use of spectrum;

Competition Act 1998. This sets out the UK's basic competition law. Ofcom is one of a number of concurrent regulators empowered to enforce competition law. Ofcom, as a concurrent regulator of the communications sector, also has powers to apply and enforce articles 81 and 82 of the EC treaty in competition matters where they may affect trade between member states; and

Enterprise Act 2002. Like the Competition Act, this Act forms part of the UK's competition law regime, providing the mechanism for Ofcom (and other regulators) to refer matters to the Competition Commission. It also provides the framework for Ofcom (and other regulators) to enforce various UK laws to protect consumers, and for the assessment of mergers and acquisitions.

Insolvency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1445-6W, on insolvency, what the reasons are for the time taken to finalise liquidation of companies which commenced 10 or more years ago. [284217]

Ian Lucas: A liquidator may only close the liquidation once their administration is for all practical purposes complete, once any residual assets of the insolvent company have been realised and distributed to those entitled to receive the proceeds.

Several possible reasons could give rise to a delay in finalising the liquidation but the most likely would be that the circumstances of the case are such that asset realisations may be protracted. Complexity could arise, for example, because of difficulties as to identity, ownership or location of assets and in some circumstances legal action may be necessary. In other cases the nature of the assets may be such that the interests of creditors are best served by delaying realisation of the assets until some future date.

Iron and Steel

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if the Government will take steps to increase the demand for steel in the UK. [282878]

Ian Lucas: The Government have announced a number of measures that should increase demand for steel in the UK. In the pre-Budget report my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that a fiscal stimulus, including £3 billion of capital expenditure would be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2008-09 and 2009-10, to support the economy. Projects include increasing capacity in the motorway and rail network, improving and building new social housing, renewing primary and secondary schools, and investing in energy efficiency measures. In his Budget statement the Chancellor also announced private sector investment worth over £4 billion pa for 2009/10 and 2010/11 in energy (nearly 50 per cent. higher than five years ago).

In addition, much of what the Government are doing to support business through the downturn is aimed at the many enterprises that are customers of companies in the steel industry. This includes the vehicle scrappage scheme, which for a temporary period will give people a discount of £2,000 for trading in vehicles older than 10 years when buying a new vehicle. This comes on top of measures in our Real Help for Business programme, launched in January which included a £1.3 billion Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the Manufacturing Perceptions survey. [284376]

Ian Lucas: A survey on the perceptions of manufacturing will be a key workstream for the Manufacturing Insight director to consider when he/she is appointed. The director's post has been advertised and interviews will take place shortly.

Manufacturing Insight

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms there will be for co-operation between Manufacturing Insight and *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* the Manufacturing Advisory Service. [284373]

Ian Lucas: Manufacturing Insight will be looking to establish a positive image for manufacturing to influence young people and their parents that modern manufacturing can offer attractive and stimulating employment opportunities. Business Link (BL) and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) provide support and advice to individual companies to help improve their productivity and competitiveness. Case studies from both BL and MAS will provide Manufacturing Insight with useful examples of companies who are successful and demonstrate the way in which manufacturing has moved on from the current public perception.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are planned for his Department's Manufacturing Insight office. [284374]

Ian Lucas: Manufacturing Insight will be launched later this year. We are in the process of recruiting a director for Manufacturing Insight. After the director has been appointed, the Manufacturing Insight Management Board will approve a business plan that will include proposals on the allocation of staff.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who has been asked to be a role model for young people as part of the Manufacturing Insight programme. [284375]

Ian Lucas: Role models for Manufacturing Insight have yet to be identified. Once appointed the Manufacturing Insight director will work with the management board on the role models that should be approached to promote Manufacturing Insight.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent to date on establishing Manufacturing Insight. [284379]

Ian Lucas: Manufacturing Insight will be launched later in the year. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has allocated £50,000 this year as a contribution to start-up costs. The Management Board will consider a Business Plan when the new director is in place, which will seek approval on spend.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for Manufacturing Insight in the next 12 months. [284434]

Ian Lucas: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has allocated £50,000 this year towards start-up costs, as part of a package of core funding, which is to come from the wider business community.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the maximum number of car purchases which may be supported by the car scrappage scheme; [278768]

(2) how much of the funding allocated to the car scrappage scheme has been disbursed to date. [278771]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 June 2009]*: £300 million of Government funding has been allocated to cover a small amount of monitoring and administration costs and the rest to support car purchases. Over 94,000 orders for new vehicles have been taken since the scheme was announced in the Budget and over £14 million has been paid out by Government.

Phorm

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what response he has made to the European Commission's decision of 14 April 2009 to open an infringement proceeding relating to the use of Phorm's targeted online advertising technology by UK internet service providers. [280894]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office expressed an informal view about targeted online advertising and RIPA in response to a number of requests. That note concludes that targeted online advertising systems might be lawful if consent was "expressed appropriately". It did not consider whether the advertising system was either opt-in or opt-out. The Information Commissioner has confirmed that consent should be given on the basis of an opt-in system.

No discussions have taken place between the Home Office and Phorm regarding the use of its technology for counter-terrorism purposes and none are planned.

The European Commission requested a reply within two months and the Government have responded accordingly. It would not be appropriate to disclose the response while the Commission is still considering it.

CABINET OFFICE

eQuality Networks

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding awards *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* Futurebuilders have made to eQuality Networks in each of the last five years. [285470]

Angela E. Smith: Neither the Cabinet Office nor Futurebuilders has provided any funding for eQuality Networks in the last five years.

Forensic Therapies Limited

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been paid to Forensic Therapies Limited from the Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion fund in each year since 2002. [284772]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The project has been awarded £525,000 in total, to be paid by September 2010.

Total paid to date is £262,500, comprising:

	£
2007-08	87,500
2008-09	175,000

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 year olds are participating in apprenticeships linked to (i) full-time and (ii) part-time jobs. [282734]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007/08, 33,300 16-year-olds and 36,400 17-year-olds started an apprenticeship. Information on whether apprenticeships are linked to full or part-time jobs is not available. The number of hours worked per week is determined by individual employers. However, in order to be eligible for public funding, employment must be for at least 16 hours per week unless otherwise agreed with the LSC on a case-by-case basis.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether energy efficiency standards have been stipulated for circulator pumps to be installed under the Building Schools for the Future projects. [285063]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not stipulate energy efficiency standards for circulator pumps within the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Our approach is to set targets for carbon emissions by a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

We have developed guidance to help the designers of newly built schools achieve their target level of carbon reduction. This guidance encourages the use of energy efficient equipment without being prescriptive about design solutions. Additional funding has been provided to all new secondary schools within BSF, academies and One School Pathfinder programmes to reduce their carbon emissions by 60 per cent.

Children's Play: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's play schemes in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby in 2009-10. [282530]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the National Play Strategy in 2008, every top tier local authority in England will receive either play pathfinder or playbuilder funding between 2008 to 2011 through the play capital investment programme.

On average all play pathfinder authorities will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding. Play pathfinder authorities will use their allocated funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a new staffed adventure playground, while playbuilder authorities will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Local authorities have joined the programme, and so started receiving their funding, in two phases: wave 1 started in April 2008 and wave 2 in April 2009. Knowsley and Sefton are both wave 1 authorities, while the other three authorities in Merseyside (Liverpool, St. Helens and Wirral) joined the programme in April 2009. Knowsley is a play pathfinder authority and the other four are all playbuilder authorities.

The following tables show the capital and revenue funding allocated to Merseyside authorities and the phase they joined the capital play programme. Allocations for 2010-11 are indicative and will be confirmed in January 2010.

Decisions on where the capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all Members of Parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local Members of Parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

Wave 1 authorities

£

	Capital funding			*Revenue funding*		
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Knowsley	997,839	1,579,364	[1]n/a	174,768	219,516	111,346
Sefton	297,984	390,409	440,156	12,500	19,829	13,219

[1] Wave 1 play pathfinder authorities receive capital funding in 2008-09 and 2009-10 only.

Wave 2 authorities

£

	Capital funding		*Revenue funding*	
Local authority	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Liverpool	533,826	603,984	27,871	18,561
St. Helens	528,703	995,958	27,265	18,177
Wirral	530,952	998,493	27,389	18,250

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each local authority area are in *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary classes of over 30 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [277312]

Mr. Coaker: The number of children in each local authority area that are in *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary classes of over 30 pupils can be found in tables B13, B12 and B14 respectively of the Statistical First Release "Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)". This can be accessed from the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Although national information on class sizes for 2009 can be found in the Statistical First Release "Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009 (Provisional)", information for local authorities has not yet been published. It is expected that this will be published in late July.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school pupils were educated in class sizes of between *(a)* 20 and 25 and *(b)* 26 and 30 pupils in the latest year for which figures are available. [270337]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Maintained primary schools[1]: classes as taught[2], as at January 2009 (provisional) in England

	Number of classes	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*
All classes	142,660	3,738,990	100.0
20-25 pupils	37,690	865,870	23.2
26-30 pupils	77,320	2,209,100	59.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Note:

Pupil and class numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England have an average class size of fewer than (a) 15, (b) 20, (c) 25 and (d) 30 pupils in Key Stage 1; and if he will make a statement. [276893]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of schools by Key Stage 1 average class size[2, 3] as at January 2009 (provisional) in England

Key Stage 1 Average Class	*Size Number of Schools[4]*
Fewer than 15	283
Fewer than 20	1,386
Fewer than 25	5,043
Fewer than 30	12,313

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes reception classes.

[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census.

[4] Schools are counted against each relevant row e.g. those in 'fewer than 20' are also in "fewer than 15".

Source:

School Census

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of reducing class sizes at Key Stage 1 to an average of 15 pupils. [283913]

Mr. Coaker: The additional cost for financial year 2008-09 of the extra teachers required for an average class size of 15 for Key Stage 1 pupils is estimated to be around £1.5 billion. This estimate excludes the costs of additional support staff, additional classrooms and other factors such as training costs of additional teachers.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279517]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not have any contracts with Demos.

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last months was produced in the UK. [281949]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: For the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, the percentage of British sourced meat, fruit and vegetables procured by the Department for Children, Schools and Families' catering provider, Aramark, was:

(a) Meat: 10 per cent.

(b) Fruit: 40 per cent.

(c) Vegetables: 60 per cent.

Dyslexia: Teachers

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st-century schools, what the evidential basis is for his estimate that 4,000 additional dyslexia teachers will be required; in which local authority areas he expects such requirements to arise; and what plans he has to make funding allocations to schools for the employment of dyslexia teachers. [284062]

Mr. Coaker: Of the £10 million funding announced by the Secretary of State on 22 June 2009 to support the implementation of Sir Jim Rose's recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia and literacy difficulties, it is estimated that £7.6 million will be invested in the provision of specialist dyslexia training for teachers. We expect that this will enable around 4,000 teachers to train in appropriately accredited specialist dyslexia training over this financial year and next.

We are working with the Dyslexia-Specific Learning Difficulties Trust, and other partners, to determine how to best organise the delivery of specialist training. We expect to provide further details on this in the autumn.

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* specific and *(b)* area-based grants are distributed to local authorities by each division of his Department. [285051]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows allocations made to local authorities by the Department through specific grants and area based grant for 2008-09, the latest year for which final figures are available, split between recurrent and capital funding.

DCSF grants allocated to local authorities in England 2008-09

Grants	*Allocation (£ million)*
Specific grants—recurrent	
Dedicated schools grant	29,137.6
School development grant (schools element)	1,915.0
Sure start, early years and child care	1,286.5
School standards grant	1,190.2
School standards grant (personalisation)	355.9
Targeted support for the primary school national strategy	195.8
Ethnic minority achievement grant	184.9
Targeted support for the secondary school national strategy	109.5
Music	82.6
Extending and increasing flexibility of free entitlement for 3-4 year olds	80.0
School lunch grant	78.8
Extended schools—sustainability	73.5
National challenge	54.9
Youth opportunity fund	35.8
City challenge	32.8
ContactPoint	27.2
Connexions funding	26.7
Parenting support strategy grant	18.8
Short breaks	17.9
Diploma grant	17.4
Key stage 4 engagement programme	17.0
Free entitlement for 2 year olds	17.0
1-2-1 tuition and participation key stage 2 early roll out 2	15.7
Playing for success	12.8
Targeted improvement grant	12.2
Empowering young people pilot	10.7
London pay additions	9.3
Activity agreements	9.2
Targeted mental health in schools	8.5
Family intervention projects	8.0
Making good progress	7.7
Extended schools subsidy	7.1
Challenge and support funding	5.2
Youth crime action plan grant	4.5
Parenting practitioner grant	3.9
Disabled children's access to childcare	3.6
Fair play pathfinder	2.8
Friday and Saturday night activities grant	2.1
Youth crime family intervention project	2.0
Information systems for parents and providers	1.7
Right2B Cared4 pilots	1.6
Staying Put: 18+ family placement pilot	1.5
Child poverty family intervention projects	1.3
0-7 partnership pilots	1.2
Transport co-ordinators and road passing	1.1
Intensive intervention project	1.1

DCSF grants allocated to local authorities in England 2008-09

Grants	*Allocation (£ million)*
Social work practices pilot	0.9
Work focused services	0.9
Multi treatment foster care	0.8
Virtual school head pilot	0.8
Fair play playbuilder	0.5
LA child poverty innovation pilots	0.4
Child development grant' pilot grant	0.3
BHLP: children in care pilots	0.2
L3 teaching and learning network projects	0.1
Teenage parent supported housing	0.1
Parenting implementation project innovation fund	0.1
Gender equality funding	0.1
Total specific grants—recurrent	35,095.0
Area based grant	
Connexions	459.2
School development grant (LA retained element)	168.3
Children's fund	131.8
Extended schools—start up	96.9
Positive activities for young people	52.6
Care matters	34.3
Secondary national strategy: central co-ordination	30.0
Primary national strategy: central co-ordination	30.0
Teenage pregnancy	27.5
School improvement partners	23.6
Children's social care workforce	18.3
Education health partnerships	16.2
School intervention	15.0
Flexible 14 to 19 partnerships funding	14.5
Secondary behaviour and attendance central coordination	13.8
Extended rights for free travel	10.6
Child death review processes	7.2
Substance misuse	7.0
School travel advisers	6.9
Choice advisers	5.6
Youth taskforce	4.5
General duty on sustainable travel to school	4.0
Preventing violent extremism	1.7
Child trust fund	0.8
Total area based grant	1,180.2
Total Recurrent funding	36,275.2
Specific grants—capital	
Devolved formula capital	802.0
Building schools for the future	635.8
Targeted capital fund (TCF)—one school pathfinders	435.4
Sure start, early years and child care	395.0
Harnessing technology	200.8
Targeted capital fund (TCF)—main programme	170.5
Primary capital programme	143.5
Framework academies	101.3
Extended schools (capital)	84.0
Targeted capital fund (TCF)—standards and diversity	33.6
Youth capital fund	26.5
Miscellaneous capital	24.8
Basic need safety valve	22.7
Youth capital fund plus	22.6
Home access for targeted groups	18.0
Specialist schools capital	17.5
City learning centres	15.8
School travel plans	13.4
Fair play playbuilders	12.9
Fair play pathfinders	11.9
Targeted capital fund (TCF)—kitchens	8.3
ICT: mobile technology	7.3
Integrated children's system	5.0
Short breaks	4.5
Information systems for parents and providers	4.0
Targeted capital fund (TCF)—cookery in the curriculum	1.0
Total specific grants—capital	3,140.0

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to *(a)* his Department of distributing each grant made by it to local authorities and *(b)* local authorities of administering each such grant; [285052]

(2) what *(a)* eligibility conditions and *(b)* compliance measures are in place in respect of the expenditure by local authorities of each grant distributed by his Department; and what recent estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of monitoring the compliance by local authorities with such measures in respect of each such grant. [285120]

Mr. Coaker: No estimate has been made of the annual costs to the Department or to local authorities, of distributing, administering and assessing compliance of local authority grants. Information on the eligibility criteria and compliance measures for grants are set out in departmental circulars which can be found on the Department's Every Child Matters website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/childrensservicesfunding/childrensservicesfunding/

Further details of the grants covering school funding can be found on the teachernet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/

and

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/capitalinvestment/guidanceindex/

Office for Standards in Education Children's Services and Skills

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of school inspectors working on behalf of Ofsted *(a)* have been headteachers and *(b)* have qualified teacher status; and if he will make a statement. [282009]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 6 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

As of 2 July 2009, Ofsted employs 443 Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), including 82 that have a management role. Of the total, 245 (55%) inspect schools. The remainder inspect further education, work-based learning, social care and other sectors. All of the 245 who inspect schools have teaching experience in one or more education sectors as this is a key criterion for selection to the role.

I am unable to provide the information you seek about which inspectors were formerly headteachers, as we do not record electronically the career profiles of individuals. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a review of each individual's personnel file or by a request to each individual to provide the information.

There are also 1948 additional inspectors provided through our regional inspection service providers (RISPs), of whom 1567 (80%) undertake school inspections. I can confirm that almost all of these additional inspectors have teaching experience, as this is one of the key criteria for selection to the role. However, there is a very small number who were former lay inspectors under the framework for inspection that was known as section 10, superseded by the current framework in September 2005. In the former framework, each inspection team included a lay inspector who was fully trained as an inspector, but had no previous experience in teaching or school management. Their purpose was to bring a lay person's view to the inspection process. A few of the most experienced of them have been employed by RISPs as additional inspectors.

I am unable to provide you with the number of these inspectors as this information is contained in the personnel records held by the RISPs. It can only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a manual search of personnel files.

With regard to the proportion of additional inspectors who have been headteachers, Ofsted does not have access to this information as we are not involved in the recruitment process. This work is undertaken by the RISPs.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Physical Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils aged between five and 16 years spent at least two hours per week on high quality physical education and school sport in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: The percentage of pupils aged [illegible]16 spending at least two hours per week on high quality physical education and school sport as measured by the annual school sports survey conducted by TNS is as follows:

	Percentage
2007-08	90
2006-07	86
2005-06	80
2004-05	69
2003-04	62

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units which closed in the past five years had never been inspected by Ofsted; and how many such units had received one Ofsted inspection and been found to be inadequate at that inspection. [illegible]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 July 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

130 pupil referral units are recorded as having closed between 1 June 2004 and 31 May 2009. Of these, 54 were never inspected by Ofsted and 37 had received no more than one inspection. Eight of these 37 were placed in special measures at that inspection.

Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement. Please be aware that the framework for inspecting maintained schools changed in January 2000 and September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent 'inadequate' category over time. This response is, therefore, limited to those pupil referral units placed in special measures, as this category has been in use throughout the period in question.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of school days missed through unauthorised absence in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [284293]

Mr. Coaker: In 2007-08, 9.6 million days out of a possible 948.9 million school days were lost due to unauthorised absence, giving an unauthorised absence rate of 1.01 per cent.

Our focus is on reducing all forms of absence, not just a small subset. Absence rates are down from 7.41 per cent. in 1996-97 to 6.29 per cent. in 2007-08, which means that on average there are 70,000 more pupils in school every day. The issue is not whether the pupil had permission to be absent; it is how much absence the pupil has. The number of 'persistent absentees' has fallen from 4.1 per cent. in 2006-07 to 3.6 per cent. in 2007-08.

Findings on absence during the 2007-08 school year were published in a Statistical First Release in February 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000832/index.shtml

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure per school pupil in Hemel Hempstead was in each year since 1989. [283677]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on the average expenditure per school pupil in Hertfordshire local authority is shown in the following tables.

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained schools in Hertfordshire 1992-93 to 2007-08

		1992-93	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*
		Total (including pre-primary)	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*
919	Hertfordshire	1,950	1,970	2,050	2,120	2,190	2,150	2,270

		1999-2000		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
		Total (including pre-primary)	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (including pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*
919	Hertfordshire	2,360	2,350	2,540	2,530	2,840	2,820

		2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
		Total (excluding pre-primary)	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)*
919	Hertfordshire	2,910	3,170	3,380	3,610	4,020	4,040

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. Each table represents a change in source. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.

3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DFES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR are shaded out for those years.

6. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

7. The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance. Consequently LAs where there entire pupil provision were educated in GM schools will show a unit cost of zero prior to 1999-2000.

8. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.

9. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.

10. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 30 June 2009.

School Leaving

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils left school without achieving Level 4 in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* English in each of the last 10 years. [284744]

Mr. Coaker: Schooling is compulsory until the end of Key Stage 4, so no pupils left school without completing Key Stage 1.

The National Curriculum standards have been designed so that most pupils will progress by approximately one level every two years. This means that by the end of KS1, pupils are expected to reach Level 2.

Since 2005, the Department only published teacher assessment results for Key Stage 1. These are now the only results schools are required to report to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. In reading, writing and mathematics, these results are informed by the task/tests activities undertaken by children during the academic year.

Prior to 2004, both National Curriculum task/test and teacher assessments had been submitted to the Department and provided complementary information about pupil attainment.

Figures for results from 2004 onwards are not directly comparable with those prior to 2004, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

The national results at Key Stage 1 from 1998-2008 can be found in the following publications. These show for seven year-olds, the level distribution at key Stage 1.

	Publication Link
1998	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000053/index.shtml
1999	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000164/index.shtml
2000	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000262/index.shtml
2001	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000333/index.shtml
2002	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000356/index.shtml
2003	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000472/index.shtml
2004	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000488/index.shtml
2005	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000635/index.shtml
2006[1]	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000672/index.shtml
2007[1]	http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000740/index.shtml

	Publication Link
2008[1]	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000806/index.shtml

[1] From 2006, only provisional results are published as there is little change from provisional to final data

School Leaving: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who will be responsible for ensuring that pupils leaving school in Oxfordshire in 2009 will have a place either at a sixth form college or on an apprenticeship. [284964]

Mr. Iain Wright: The September Guarantee is a guarantee of a suitable offer of a place in post-16 learning for all young people leaving compulsory education at 16 and all 17-year-olds.

Local authorities are responsible for delivering the September Guarantee. Successful delivery relies on a wide range of partners, including schools, colleges, Connexions services and the Learning and Skills Council.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the most recent national statistics on school admission; what the reasons are for the time taken to publish them; and if he will make a statement. [282383]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's statisticians expect to publish the release towards the end of July. They normally announce specific release dates at least four weeks in advance but in view of the delay to this release they may announce the specific release date two weeks in advance. The announcement will be made on the UK Statistics Authority publication hub release calendar and the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

The decision to postpone the release was taken, by statisticians, because further analysis was needed to confirm the validity of the results for the numbers of admissions and appeals. Ministers were not involved in the decision and have not been informed of any of the results or analysis. A message was placed on the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway to inform users of the delay; and the UK Statistics Authority was informed.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce levels of anti-Semitism in schools; what recent discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had on this issue; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [283708]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Schools are under legal duties to promote both race equality and community cohesion. Ofsted inspections include checks on whether schools are promoting community cohesion and providing an environment where all pupils feel safe and are able to learn and achieve. This makes it compulsory for schools to have measures in place to prevent and tackle all forms of discrimination and bullying however, it is motivated and to foster good relations between different groups of pupils.

In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist and religious bullying in schools and included specific material on bullying related to anti-Semitism. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to ensure the guidance is effectively embedded in local authorities and schools. We have also published guidance on promoting community cohesion to schools in July 2007 and an online resource pack in May 2008 to help schools with building understanding and appreciation of others from different backgrounds among their pupils, as well as developing a shared vision and promoting good relations.

Furthermore, teaching of the Holocaust is a compulsory part of the history curriculum in secondary schools, and we are working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure teachers have access to appropriate training and resources to help them deliver effective Holocaust education.

For the future, we intend next year to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils. We will consult on this in the autumn and also on whether schools should be obliged to report these incidents to their local authority.

Schools: Expenditure

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* reporting of expenditure by schools at national level; [284691]

(2) what mechanisms his Department has in place to monitor the performance of schools in relation to their spending. [284740]

Mr. Coaker: Section 52 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to prepare a statement containing information relating to their planned expenditure as prescribed before the beginning of each financial year and at the end of each financial year a statement of the expenditure actually incurred in the year in a prescribed form. The prescribed forms are currently set out in the Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations 2009. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill currently before Parliament includes provisions to replace Section 52. In addition, the Consistent Financial Reporting (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) require maintained schools to prepare a financial statement in accordance with approved headings and in compliance with the normal established accounting practices of the local education authority. Copies of these returns are sent to the Department. The financial data are validated and published.

The local authority information is published on the section 52 website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58

The Consistent Financial Reporting data underpin the Schools Financial Benchmarking website. This site provides users with the tools to compare their school's income and expenditure profile with that of similar schools so that they can make informed decisions on how to manage their resources effectively. They can tailor their spending and re-allocate resources to ensure that education spending reflects local educational policy and priorities and is effective in delivering them. Benchmarking is not used solely to focus on reducing costs, but to also improve the quality and impact of a school's services. Benchmarking is a requirement for meeting the Financial Management Standard in Schools.

More details about the framework may be obtained from:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/valueformoney/index.cfm?action=Benchmarking.default

Schools: Finance

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what grants have been allocated under the Targeted Capital Fund in the last three years for which figures are available; and which of these were made under the standards and diversity element of the fund; [283962]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, on schools capital funding (2009-10), how much funding his Department has allocated to the Targeted Capital Fund to date; and what the likely distribution of such funding is between the fund's programmes. [284056]

Mr. Coaker: In 2006-07 there was a bidding round under the Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) against published criteria, aimed at raising standards through addressing building need. This resulted in allocations of some £311 million (with payments phased over the life of each project).

As part of the CSR07 process it was decided that much of the available resources available for new TCF projects would be allocated to those authorities who were not yet in the Building Schools for the Future programme. This meant that 76 authorities were allocated £8 million each to invest in their schools to address building needs concerned with the 14-19 agenda and/or special educational needs and disabilities, totalling £608 million.

This was originally phased to be paid as £152 million in 2009-10 and £456 million in 2010-11, although the subsequent fiscal stimulus initiative has now changed this phasing to £303 million in 2009-10 and £305 million in 2010-11.

The other main TCF categories announced through the CSR process were the application based Standards and Diversity programme, through which £131 million has been allocated in 2008-09 (with payments phased over the spending period), and kitchens and dining facilities, through which £150 million has been allocated over the spending period.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the objectives of the Standards and Diversity Fund are; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Fund; [283963]

(2) how many faith-based schools have received grants under both the Targeted Capital Fund and the Standards and Diversity Fund in the last two years. [283938]

Mr. Coaker: The Standards and Diversity Targeted Capital Fund supports our aims to improve choice and diversity of school provision as part of our drive to raise standards across all schools. It provides an incentive for local authorities and schools to work together to develop capital investment plans at those schools where the investment coming through the Department's strategic investment programmes—Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme—will not provide the necessary resources required in a timely fashion to help raise standards for pupils.

The purposes of projects supported through the fund include:

developing provision at maintained boarding schools, non-maintained special schools and Music and Dance Scheme schools;

removing significant numbers of surplus places;

helping to raise standards through increasing parental choice and diversity of provision in an area through the expansion of successful and popular maintained schools;

encouraging new entrants to the maintained sector (including proposers of new Trust schools and voluntary aided schools and independent schools seeking to enter the sector) and

supporting federations of schools and groups of schools working together under a single trust.

In order to maximise the impact of the capital investment, it is important to allocate funding to projects as early as possible in the spending period. To date, 66 projects totalling £131 million have been approved in this spending period. We continue to review the operation of all our capital programmes and any lessons learned through this process will, of course, be reflected in the design of future programmes.

Of the 66 projects approved to date through the Standards and Diversity Targeted Capital Fund, 18 projects involving 24 faith-based schools have had funding allocated. The other main strands of the Targeted Capital Fund are allocated at local authority level.

This applies notably to allocations for:

supporting the reform of education for 14 to 19-year-olds

enhancing facilities for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities,

strengthening cookery in the curriculum,

enhancing kitchens and dining facilities.

With all of these, it is the responsibility of the local authority to decide priorities for investment of these funds, including at voluntary-aided or other faith-based schools.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to respond to the report of the Audit Commission on improving economy and efficiency in schools; and if he will make a statement. [284689]

Mr. Coaker: I welcome the Audit Commission report "Valuable Lessons: improving economy and efficiency in schools".

There is already a range of tools available to help schools make the most effective use of their resources including financial benchmarking, the strategic planning guide, the Financial Management Standard in Schools and the offer of a free one-day consultancy visit on improving value for money.

The Education Procurement Centre is working with schools to carry out procurement health checks which help to identify where savings can be made. The e-procurement tool OPEN has been developed to help schools buy products online and compare prices of a range of suppliers.

The report supports our position on surplus school balances. It is sound financial management for schools to retain a small surplus from year to year, but revenue funding is primarily for teacher and support staff pay and to support the education of children in school. It should not be needed for capital improvement projects given that separate capital funding is available.

Schools and authorities must work to reduce high balances over the next two years. If total revenue balances and the excessive balances held by individual schools do not reduce substantially by 2010-11, the Government will consult on further action from 2011-12 to bring the total down.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the assessment process for the Financial Management Standard in Schools for the purposes of making available comparative data on the financial performance of schools in the same area. [284741]

Mr. Coaker: The Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) was introduced in May 2004 and is intended to help schools in evaluating the quality of their financial management. An independent evaluation report of FMSiS, published on 21 August 2008, recognised that the standard is helping to provide a consistent approach on resource management across all schools. In line with the recommendations from that evaluation the standard will continue in its current form.

Consistent Financial Reporting provides income and expenditure data across a wide range of categories on a consistent basis for all local authority maintained schools in England. It is used within the Department and by external researchers for modelling the impact of new policies.

The data underpin the Schools Financial Benchmarking website. This site provides users with the tools to compare their school's income and expenditure profile with that of similar schools so that they can make informed decisions on how to manage their resources effectively. They can tailor their spending and re-allocate resources to ensure that education spending reflects local educational policy and priorities and is effective in delivering them. Benchmarking is not used solely to focus on reducing costs, but to also improve the quality and impact of a school's services.

The site is accessed by over 10,000 schools and local authority users each year.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st-century schools, what additional training he proposes for chairs of school governing bodies; from what budget the cost of such training will be drawn; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of *(a)* funding and *(b)* monitoring the outcomes of such training. [284069]

Mr. Coaker: The Department produced the Taking The Chair programme for chairs of maintained school governing bodies in England in 2004. Although chairs were recommended to undertake this training, at the present time it is not mandatory. We will be improving this training so it will focus on providing effective support and challenge to the head teacher and school leadership team and holding them to account. As with all governor training, the costs will be met from schools' delegated budgets. As yet, no estimate has been made of the cost of developing the training or of monitoring its outcomes.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on taking account of the level of financial experience of applicants for school governor posts; and what information his Department holds on local authority provision of training in financial management for school governors. [284816]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has issued no guidance on taking account of the level of financial experience of applicants for school governor posts.

The Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) was introduced in May 2004 and was intended to help schools in evaluating the quality of their financial management and to aid in training staff to become better financial managers. As part of the FMSiS accreditation process, LA assessors must evaluate governors' financial management competencies to establish training needs.

We do not collect data on the provision of local authority training in financial management, however the Department has contributed by making training funds in the region of £200,000 available to all LAs each year since FMSiS was implemented. These funds are specifically used to train school staff and governors in the successful implementation of the standard.

Schools: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the merits of encouraging schools which are in the same area to use joint procurement processes for contracts for provision of support staff and facilities. [284690]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Where a joint approach to procurement (or collaboration) is adopted, the benefits typically seen are:

Improved value for money;

More reliable quality of supply; and

Better quality of service.

These benefits are achieved by aggregating the demand for goods and services across a number schools and offering that increased volume to a larger pool of suppliers via structured competition.

The use of procurement collaboration to achieve improved value for money, quality and reliability of supply is a key Government initiative. This is demonstrated by the importance placed on the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC's) collaborative agenda.

Where this approach is adopted to a category of spend, for example support staff or facilities, an assessment of the specific merits to be achieved should be undertaken prior to undertaking the work (i.e. a business case is developed) and the subsequent measurement of the merits/benefits which should be recorded and reported as appropriate.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) currently encourages schools to make use of contracts and frameworks that have been competed in the market place across a range of products and services. Where arrangements for specific categories of spend have not been addressed by DCSF, a school will be directed to an appropriate collaborative contract or framework which may be owned by the local authority, OGC or some other public body.

Schools: Sport

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schools in each local authority area provide pupils with the opportunity for at least two hours of sport per week. [285377]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table from the School Sport Survey for 2007/08 shows the percentage of pupils by local authority who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours sport in a typical week. The survey does not collect data in the form requested.

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by local authority

	Percentage
Barking and Dagenham	92
Barnet	87
Barnsley	87
Bath and North East Somerset	92
Bedfordshire	94
Bexley	89
Birmingham	91
Blackburn with Darwen	89
Blackpool	91
Bolton	89
Bournemouth	90
Bracknell Forest	89
Bradford	89
Brent	87
Brighton and Hove	90
Bristol, City of	90
Bromley	89
Buckinghamshire	93
Bury	93
Calderdale	86
Cambridgeshire	90
Camden	86
Cheshire	92
City of London	60
Cornwall	95
Coventry	87
Croydon	88
Cumbria	90
Darlington	89
Derby	90
Derbyshire	89
Devon	94
Doncaster	81
Dorset	93
Dudley	89
Durham	91
Ealing	93
East Riding of Yorkshire	91
East Sussex	93
Enfield	94
Essex	92
Gateshead	86
Gloucestershire	90
Greenwich	83
Hackney	82
Halton	87
Hammersmith and Fulham	91
Hampshire	91
Haringey	91
Harrow	85
Hartlepool	93
Havering	85
Herefordshire	95
Hertfordshire	93
Hillingdon	88
Hounslow	91
Isle of Wight	86
Isles of Scilly	82
Islington	89
Kensington and Chelsea	92
Kent	88
Kingston upon Hull, City of	89
Kingston upon Thames	92
Kirklees	88
Knowsley	89
Lambeth	89
Lancashire	89
Leeds	91
Leicester	87
Leicestershire	88
Lewisham	88
Lincolnshire	91
Liverpool	89
Luton	93
Manchester	86
Medway	80
Merton	92
Middlesbrough	93
Milton Keynes	96
Newcastle upon Tyne	92
Newham	92
Norfolk	92
North East Lincolnshire	91
North Lincolnshire	89
North Somerset	90
North Tyneside	91
North Yorkshire	92

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by local authority

	Percentage
Northamptonshire	92
Northumberland	91
Nottingham	88
Nottinghamshire	91
Oldham	93
Oxfordshire	90
Peterborough	86
Plymouth	91
Poole	95
Portsmouth	88
Reading	89
Redbridge	83
Redcar and Cleveland	88
Richmond upon Thames	93
Rochdale	90
Rotherham	86
Rutland	87
Salford	88
Sandwell	85
Sefton	91
Sheffield	85
Shropshire	93
Slough	87
Solihull	89
Somerset	91
South Gloucestershire	90
South Tyneside	89
Southampton	84
Southend-on-Sea	97
Southwark	88
St. Helens	93
Staffordshire	86
Stockport	89
Stockton-on-Tees	91
Stoke-on-Trent	91
Suffolk	90
Sunderland	92
Surrey	88
Sutton	93
Swindon	86
Tameside	86
Telford and Wrekin	94
Thurrock	91
Torbay	90
Tower Hamlets	87
Trafford	87
Wakefield	92
Walsall	90
Waltham Forest	93
Wandsworth	88
Warrington	96
Warwickshire	91
West Berkshire	91
West Sussex	88
Westminster	93
Wigan	91
Wiltshire	93
Windsor and Maidenhead	92
Wirral	89
Wokingham	95
Wolverhampton	90
Worcestershire	94
York	94

Secondary Education: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were permanently excluded from a mainstream maintained secondary school were placed in another mainstream maintained school in the most recent year for which figures are available. [285576]

Mr. Coaker: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of the intake of each school in the National Challenge Programme did not achieve a level 3 qualification or above in English in Year 6 in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [282502]

(2) what proportion of 11-year-olds entering a secondary school in the National Challenge Programme did not achieve a level 3 qualification or above in English in Year 6 in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [282503]

Mr. Coaker: Of the pupils taking Key Stage 4 exams in National Challenge schools in 2008, 12 per cent. did not achieve level 3 or above in Key Stage 2 English. This compares to a figure of 8 per cent. for pupils in all schools.

The National Challenge is a detailed strategy to tackle the link between deprivation and low educational attainment by building sustainable improvement in secondary schools. The relatively low prior attainment of pupils in many National Challenge schools has always been acknowledged, and the plans for many of the schools reflect support to ensure these pupils succeed at KS4.

Figures for the individual National Challenge schools have been placed in the House Libraries.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational need attended mainstream schools which Ofsted has assessed as inadequate in each year since 1997. [282016]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 June 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows how many pupils with statements of special educational needs attended nursery, primary and secondary schools which were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98, and the percentage this represents of all pupils with statements of special educational needs. The number and percentage of all pupils in nursery, primary and secondary schools in special measures are also shown for information.

Table A: Number and percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs, and all pupils, attending nursery, primary and secondary schools which were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98

	Pupils with statements of special educational needs			All pupils		
	In schools in special measures at the end of the academic year	In all schools	Percentage in schools in special measures	In schools in special measures at the end of the academic year	In all schools	Percentage in schools in special measures
1997/98	3,768	141,410	3	149,733	7,598,190	2
1998/99	3,334	147,580	2	129,502	7,645,880	2
1999/2000	3,153	152,800	2	123,924	7,680,200	2
2000/01	2,703	158,000	2	107,374	7,699,990	1
2001/02	2,128	149,890	1	91,274	7,686,080	1
2002/03	2,386	150,910	2	92,040	7,677,900	1
2003/04	3,566	149,050	2	129,596	7,643,130	2
2004/05	2,823	145,040	2	106,672	7,589,720	1
2005/06	1,932	139,880	1	86,785	7,530,550	1
2006/07	1,715	132,270	1	84,273	7,466,950	1
2007/08	1,710	126,660	1	85,876	7,414,290	1

Source:

Figures are based on School Census (pupil level) data from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement. Please be aware that the framework for inspecting maintained schools has been revised throughout the period in question, most recently in September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent "inadequate" category over this period. These tables are, therefore, limited to those maintained schools placed in special measures, as this category has been in place throughout the period in question.

Pupil numbers have been calculated using information from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' School Census (pupil-level) on pupils registered at one school only, and on pupils registered at two schools, but using their main school as recorded on the census. The census is taken in January of each year.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, whether he plans to make additional funding allocations in respect of children with additional needs who are not dyslexic. [284064]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We want all children to have an equal chance to succeed, but children from disadvantaged backgrounds need extra support from their school to make that a reality. The current formula for the distribution of the dedicated schools grant includes an element to recognise the pressures faced by those local authorities with high deprivation. For 2009-10 the DSG included £3 billion for deprivation.

We are undertaking a review of the dedicated schools grant to develop a new funding formula which would be available for use from April 2011. The aim of the review is to develop a funding formula which distributes resources in line with relative need, recognising the different costs of educating particular groups of pupils and providing education in different areas. Our aim is to support schools and LAs in raising the educational achievement of all pupils and narrow achievement gaps, particularly those from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds.

As part of this review we are investigating how best to provide funding for additional educational needs (AEN) and have commissioned research to investigate such issues as the different types of AEN in terms of level of incidence and severity; the best measures for identifying pupils likely to under-achieve and the potential role of financial incentives in tackling deprivation.

The review is ongoing and it would not be appropriate at this stage to pre-empt its outcome. We expect to go out to consultation on proposals for a new funding formula in early 2010, after which proposals will be further developed in the light of the consultation responses.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have entered for *(a)* the foundation, *(b)* intermediate and *(c)* higher diploma in (i) construction and the built environment, (ii) business administration and finance, (iii) creative and media, (iv) engineering and (v) environmental and land-based studies in each local authority area. [249104]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest information for Diplomas in Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, and Engineering are in the following table. In 2008, Diplomas were available in around two thirds of local authorities, as listed in the table. Most of these local authorities have been approved to deliver one or two Diploma lines. Young people have yet to enrol in the Business Administration and Finance or the Environmental and Land-Based Diplomas as these are not being taught for the first time until September 2009.

LA	Line	Foundation (L1)	Higher (L2)	Advanced (L3)
Barking and Dagenham	Cr&Med	0	13	0
Barking and Dagenham	Eng	16	18	15
Barnsley	Const	0	28	23
Birmingham	Const	0	12	0
Birmingham	Cr&Med	43	84	22
Birmingham	Eng	5	52	0
Blackburn with Darwen	Eng	0	6	0

LA	*Line*	*Foundation (L1)*	*Higher (L2)*	*Advanced (L3)*
Bolton	Const	35	26	0
Bolton	Eng	0	23	14
Bradford	Cr&Med	0	51	26
Bromley	Cr&Med	22	52	22
Bromley	Eng	23	8	2
Buckinghamshire	Eng	8	37	0
Bury	Eng	0	31	15
Calderdale	Cr&Med	9	18	0
Cambridgeshire	Cr&Med	0	51	16
Cheshire	Cr&Med	0	31	8
Cheshire	Eng	30	56	6
Cornwall	Cr&Med	9	130	26
Coventry	Eng	9	96	0
Croydon	Const	8	20	0
Cumbria	Const	0	15	0
Cumbria	Cr&Med	0	14	0
Cumbria	Eng	0	22	0
Derby	Eng	10	17	0
Dorset	Const	17	0	0
Dorset	Cr&Med	0	28	8
Dudley	Cr&Med	0	38	41
Durham	Eng	0	10	0
Ealing	Const	12	8	0
Ealing	Cr&Med	12	12	18
East Sussex	Const	27	27	0
East Sussex	Cr&Med	0	55	28
East Sussex	Eng	0	45	0
Gateshead	Eng	0	16	0
Hackney	Const	0	38	0
Hackney	Cr&Med	0	47	0
Halton	Const	12	13	0
Hampshire	Const	0	46	19
Hampshire	Eng	0	27	0
Haringey	Const	10	16	0
Harrow	Cr&Med	0	6	0
Hartlepool	Eng	11	19	0
Hertfordshire	Const	10	47	5
Hertfordshire	Cr&Med	20	82	11
Hertfordshire	Eng	46	80	8
Hillingdon	Eng	0	0	16
Hounslow	Cr&Med	2	49	0
Islington	Cr&Med	0	40	18
Kent	Const	0	32	10
Kirklees	Cr&Med	16	38	0
Knowsley	Cr&Med	0	48	13
Knowsley	Eng	24	48	9
Lambeth (joint Southwark)	Eng	42	154	11
Lancashire	Cr&Med	18	67	0
Lancashire	Eng	0	15	0
Leeds	Const	14	51	18
Leeds	Cr&Med	7	20	12
Leicestershire	Cr&Med	0	14	0
Leicestershire	Eng	33	64	8
Lincolnshire	Cr&Med	0	83	12
Lincolnshire	Eng	21	113	10
Liverpool	Const	9	16	11
Liverpool	Cr&Med	0	28	26
Liverpool	Eng	10	20	14
Manchester	Const	22	41	0
Manchester	Cr&Med	60	30	0
Medway	Cr&Med	29	29	42
Medway	Eng	0	33	13
Middlesbrough	Const	27	31	0
Middlesbrough	Eng	0	36	31
Milton Keynes	Const	35	10	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Const	0	19	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Cr&Med	70	18	17
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Eng	30	24	27
Newham	Const	28	46	0
Newham	Cr&Med	47	54	23
Newham	Eng	25	54	43
Norfolk	Const	79	53	20
Norfolk	Cr&Med	12	49	18
North East Lincolnshire	Eng	0	18	0
North Somerset	Cr&Med	0	74	11
North Tyneside	Const	9	11	0
North Tyneside	Cr&Med	0	21	28
North Tyneside	Eng	5	19	0
North Yorkshire	Cr&Med	0	20	0
Northamptonshire	Cr&Med	0	68	0
Northamptonshire	Eng	0	8	0
Nottingham City	Const	23	21	0
Nottingham City	Cr&Med	4	16	0
Nottingham City	Eng	16	24	36
Nottinghamshire	Const	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	Const	12	23	0
Nottinghamshire	Cr&Med	0	51	0
Nottinghamshire	Eng	13	14	0
Oldham	Const	11	0	18
Oldham	Cr&Med	15	22	9
Oxfordshire	Cr&Med	41	0	0
Oxfordshire	Eng	41	61	0
Plymouth City	Const	0	11	0
Plymouth City	Eng	10	48	11
Reading	Const	0	0	[illegible]
Reading	Cr&Med	50	24	23
Reading	Eng	10	31	30
Rotherham	Const	6	54	0
Rutland	Cr&Med	0	49	0
Salford	Cr&Med	24	116	20
Sheffield	Const	0	30	0
Sheffield	Cr&Med	7	36	0
Sheffield	Eng	0	35	12
Somerset	Cr&Med	21	55	0
South Gloucestershire	Const	28	56	0
South Gloucestershire	Cr&Med	0	148	0
South Gloucestershire	Eng	14	53	0
Southend-on-Sea	Cr&Med	4	32	0
Southwark	Cr&Med	12	16	21
St. Helens	Eng	0	17	0
Staffordshire	Const	0	36	0
Staffordshire	Eng	0	9	0
Stoke on Trent	Const	25	13	22
Stoke on Trent	Eng	20	25	17
Suffolk	Eng	16	15	9
Sunderland	Const	0	44	0
Sunderland	Cr&Med	0	45	0
Sunderland	Eng	0	56	0
Surrey	Const	0	15	0
Surrey	Cr&Med	14	33	0
Surrey	Eng	19	44	0
Swindon	Const	12	7	9

LA	*Line*	*Foundation (L1)*	*Higher (L2)*	*Advanced (L3)*
Swindon	Cr&Med	4	45	38
Swindon	Eng	23	36	24
Tameside	Eng	9	18	16
Torbay	Cr&Med	9	88	18
Trafford	Const	0	37	0
Trafford	Eng	14	46	0
Wakefield	Const	0	5	0
Walsall	Cr&Med	0	52	0
Waltham Forest	Cr&Med	0	35	0
West Sussex	Const	0	10	0
West Sussex	Eng	12	9	0
Wiltshire	Const	1	7	0
Wiltshire	Cr&Med	15	51	0
Wiltshire	Eng	0	9	0
Wolverhampton	Const	0	18	0
Wolverhampton	Cr&Med	0	63	51
Wolverhampton	Eng	27	24	0
Worcestershire	Const	31	27	0
Worcestershire	Cr&Med	0	25	11
Worcestershire	Eng	12	13	0
York City	Eng	0	51	23

Teachers: Licensing

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, (1) what process a prospective teacher will be required to follow to obtain a licence to teach; whether a licence to teach will be required of holders of a postgraduate certificate of education qualification; how often the licence to teach will have to be renewed; whether he proposes that a teacher should undertake a minimum number of hours of teaching to keep the licence to teach; whether teachers will be required to make a payment to obtain a licence to teach; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of administering the licence to teach scheme in the first 12 months of operation; [284065]

(2) what arrangements he plans to make to enable teachers from overseas to obtain the licence to teach. [284066]

Mr. Coaker: Initial details of our plans for the roll-out of a 'licence to teach' were set out in our White Paper 'Your child, your schools, our future' published on 30 June 2009. In setting up specific arrangements, we want to build on the best elements of the existing registration arrangements for teachers but place more emphasis on a teacher's record of professional development and practice.

Our intention is to begin to roll out the new arrangements for qualified teachers and head teachers teaching in maintained schools, non-maintained special schools and short-stay schools (formerly pupil referral units) from September 2010. We envisage that, as with current registration arrangements for teachers, the 'licence to teach' will follow the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and any qualification, for example a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, that a teacher may have attained as part of their initial teacher training.

As we set out in our White Paper, we envisage a 'licence to teach' being valid for five years, at the end of which the licence holder would have to undergo a process of revalidation, building on the performance management arrangements and including other feedback.

We are mindful that this represents a major change for the teaching profession and we will, therefore, work and consult closely with the many stakeholders here, including our social partners. These discussions will help inform the precise shape and details of the 'licence to teach' including: whether or not we set a minimum number of hours of teaching practice to keep the licence current; and what arrangements we may make to enable teachers from overseas to obtain the licence to teach.

In relation to cost, all qualified teachers working in maintained schools, non-maintained special schools and short stay schools (formerly pupil referral units) are currently required to pay an annual fee to the General Teaching Council for England (GTC) in order to be fully registered with the GTC.

This provides them with the right to teach in the maintained sector. The fee must also be paid by those teachers who work in academies who have to pay the fee as part of their employment contract, and any other teachers who wish to register with the GTC. As part of consulting stakeholders, we will consider how the 'licence to teach' will interact with the current annual registration fee and will be seeking the views of the profession before making a final decision.

Teaching Methods

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the Statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of implementation of his proposals for one-to-one tuition at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary level; and how many hours of such tuition per pupil per week he plans to provide; [284063]

(2) pursuant to the Statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-80, on 21st century schools, what estimate he has made of the number of pupils between Years 3 and 6 who will require additional one-to-one tuition in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in each of the next three years; how many hours of additional tuition per child he expects to provide; and how much he plans to allocate to the budgets of (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools to fund such tuition. [284067]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: One-to-one tuition is already being implemented nationally. In the spring and summer terms 2009 we have allocated £15 million to support 36,000 pupils in years 5 and 6. In 2009-10 we are providing £138 million to support around 150,000 pupils in each of English and mathematics across key stage 2, key stage 3 (and in national challenge schools key Stage 4). In 2010-11, £315 million is available to offer one-to-one tuition to 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 pupils in mathematics across primary and secondary schools.

It is for local authorities working with their schools to identify the pupils in each of the key stages who should benefit from the additional funding for one-to-one tuition that we have provided. Local authorities will be responsible for allocating funding to their schools to support these pupils.

Once they are identified for one-to-one tuition, pupils receive 10 hours of additional support.

Third Sector

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what terms and conditions are set by his Department in relation to the provision of funding from his Department's budget to *(a)* charities, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* social enterprises. [284210]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not make a distinction between *(a)* charities, *(b)* voluntary organisations or *(c)* social enterprises in relation to provision of grant funding. As per the Cabinet Office definition, DCSF regards charities, voluntary organisations or social enterprises as Third Sector Organisations.

The DCSF pays most of its funds through local authorities and children's centres. These organisations commission locally, thereby benefiting the local third sector.

DCSF has two established grant funding agreement templates covering funding under and over £200,000. Managers responsible for the management of a grant programme have the flexibility to decide which agreement template to use, based on the level of the agreed funding. Each grant funding agreement has clearly defined terms and conditions governing funding including:

- how the grant should be used
- responsibilities and accountabilities of the grant recipient
- terms and conditions of payment
- Intellectual property right arrangements
- capital asset management
- access to information in order to monitor compliance and performance
- accounting and financial management controls and
- repayment of unspent funds.

Grant funds are never paid before they have been formally approved and the grant recipient has accepted the terms and conditions of the grant agreement by signing and returning the agreement. Funding is usually paid in arrears. However, funding may be paid in advance when a request is made and a clear need for advance payment can be shown.

The funding offered will reflect the full cost of the service, including legitimate overhead costs, and is paid for up to three years.

Contract funds adhere to Government procurement policy, based on value for money, and the EU procurement rules. This ensures that all sectors within the market are treated equally.

DCSF guidance reflects the recent guidelines on proportionate monitoring issued by the Cabinet Office. Monitoring must be proportionate to the risks and benefits involved.

Young People: Unemployed

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years were not in education, employment or training in each region in the first quarter of 2009. [280896]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows estimates taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of the number and proportion of people of academic age[1] 16 to 24 who were not in education, employment or training in the first quarter of 2009, by region.

[1] Academic age is defined as age at the start of the academic year, 31 August.

16 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training by region, Q1 2009

	Number	Proportion (percentage)
North East	57,000	18
North West	156,000	18
Yorkshire and Humberside	107,000	16
East Midlands	69,000	13
West Midlands	126,000	20
East of England	83,000	14
London	127,000	14
South East	130,000	14
South West	78,000	14

Note:
It is important to note that as with all survey estimates these estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling error. The confidence interval for regional estimates of NEET is typically plus or minus 2 to 3 percentage points. Figures should therefore be treated with caution.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Ministerial Correction

Monday 29 June 2009

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age Discrimination

Jo Swinson: I am glad that the Minister mentions Young Equals and I am sure he has read its excellent report, "Making the case", which details harmful age discrimination against young people, so how can the Government justify ignoring that evidence and excluding under-18s from protections in the Equality Bill?

[Official Report, 25 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 936-37.]

Letter of correction from Michael Jabez Foster:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on 25 June 2009. The exchange was as follows:

Jo Swinson: I am glad that the Minister mentions Young Equals and I am sure he has read its excellent report, "Making the case", which details harmful age discrimination against young people, so how can the Government justify ignoring that evidence and excluding under-18s from protections in the Equality Bill?

Michael Jabez Foster: We all agree that young people deserve the best possible start in life, but the most appropriate and effective way to deliver better opportunities and services for our young people is through targeted initiatives, which is why, in January, we announced an extra 350,000 apprenticeship places, half of which we expect to go to 16 to 18-year-olds. It is also why we are investing £225 million over three years to support local communities. We need to support vulnerable young people who become homeless. Such targeted initiatives will have the greatest effect for the benefit of young people.

The correct answer should have been:

Michael Jabez Foster: We all agree that young people deserve the best possible start in life, but the most appropriate and effective way to deliver better opportunities and services for our young people is through targeted initiatives, which is why, in January, we announced an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places, half of which we expect to go to 16 to 18-year-olds. It is also why we are investing £225 million over three years to support local communities. We need to support vulnerable young people who become homeless. Such targeted initiatives will have the greatest effect for the benefit of young people.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 30 June 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Building Britain's Future

The Prime Minister: …The second set of public service entitlements will be for parents, with a guarantee of individually tailored education for their children, as part of far-reaching reform in the schools system. I want all our children to have opportunities that are available today only to those who can pay for them in private education. It is right that personal tutoring should be extended to all who need it, so there will be a new guarantee for parents of a personal tutor for pupils at secondary and primary schools and catch-up tuition, including one-to-one tuition for those who need it.

[Official Report, 29 June 2009, Vol. 495, c. 23.]

Letter of correction from the Office of the Prime Minister:

An error has been identified in the Prime Minister's statement on Building Britain's Future on 29 June 2009. This error occurred during the delivery of the statement, copies of which were sent in advance to both the Table Office and Hansard.

The correct text should read:

The Prime Minister: …. It is right that personal tutoring should be extended to all who need it, so there will be a new guarantee for parents of a personal tutor for pupils at secondary schools and catch-up tuition, including one-to-one tuition for those who need it.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 1 July 2009

DEFENCE

Air Force: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots for each aircraft type in the RAF is. [279958]

[Official Report, 15 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 2W.]

Letter of correction from Bill Rammell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 15 June 2009. Unfortunately, an arithmetical error was made calculating the total number of pilots required. All other figures used in the table are correct as originally recorded.

The correct answer should have been:

Bill Rammell: The information is provided in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Required*	*Actual*
C130J	133	130
C130K	73	79
VC10	64	51
TriStar	48	46
C17A	53	46
HS125	17	16
BAe146	10	7
GR4	134	129
Typhoon	60	68
F3	23	30
Harrier	48	48
Nimrod MR2	58	46
Nimrod R1	10	10
Sentinel R1	21	14
E3D	32	28
KingAir	32	27
Dominie	13	9
Tutor	31	46
Tucano	50	47
Hawk	97	84
Puma	96	85
Chinook	101	93
Merlin	75	64
Squirrel	18	16
SeaKing	89	74
Griffin	22	23
Augusta 109	5	5
Predator	8	8
Reaper	14	11
Islander	7	7
Total	1,444	1,347

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 2 July 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the cost of *(a)* venue hire, *(b)* travel expenses and *(c)* food and drink was for the tourism summit hosted by his Department in Liverpool on 8 January 2009; [250251]

(2) what the cost to his Department was of the tourism summit in Liverpool on 8 January. [250403]

[Official Report, 2 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 860-61W.]

Letter of correction from Barbara Follett:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 2 February 2009.

The figures previously given were inaccurate because they did not include the additional costs associated with the hire of a second room, production and technical support. When these were included the final cost to the Department of the tourism summit was £27,889.65.

The correct answer should have been:

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The estimated total cost to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport of the tourism summit in Liverpool on 8 January is £27,889.65.